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Japan

Tokyo: Still No Consensus on Early G-7 Summit

OW2403043893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0414 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—France's call for an emergency summit of leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations still does not appear to be supported by a majority of G-7 leaders, Japan's top government spokesman said Wednesday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, noting that France is in the midst of elections, said he hoped French President Francois Mitterrand would cooperate in Japan's plan to instead hold a ministerial-level emergency meeting on Russian aid. Many Japanese officials believe Mitterrand has remained adamant over convening the emergency summit in order to woo public support for his Socialist Party, which suffered a crushing defeat in the first round of general elections last Sunday.

Canada has also backed the idea of an early summit. The other G- 7 countries are Britain, Germany, Italy and the United States.

Kono reiterated his support for beleaguered Russian President Boris Yeltsin as Russia's only democratically elected leader. "We think that the democratic and market economy reforms, and foreign policy based on law and justice, are significant for world history," Kono said in a statement. "We support President Yeltsin, who has been promoting such reforms," Kono said.

His remarks follow a ruling by Russia's Constitutional Court on Tuesday that Yeltsin violated the Constitution with a declaration last Saturday that he would rule by decree until a referendum next month on a new constitution. Asked by reporters about the ruling, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said, "I think democratization is a good thing."

In a related development, a senior government official said G-7 countries are considering rescheduling Russia's debt repayments, extending investment insurance, and widening and increasing trade insurance as ways to support Yeltsin.

LDP's Mitsuzuka Pledges Support for Russia

OW2403091393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0857 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—A senior ruling party official pledged Wednesday that Japan will offer active economic support to Russia despite a long-standing territorial dispute between the two countries. "Japan will do the best it can despite its standing policy of not separating politics and economics," Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's policy affairs research council, told a news conference.

Japan has pursued the policy in connection with its dispute with Russia over ownership of four Russian-held islands. Aid to Russia will be the major topic of discussion at a forthcoming ministerial meeting of the Group of Seven major industrialized democracies in Tokyo next month.

Mitsuzuka said Japan will help Russia renovate crude oil production facilities and promote privatization of small state-run enterprises. He also said he will work on the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to increase funds for insurance of Japanese exports to Russia.

LDP Official Sato Supports Russian Democracy

OW2403130593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Sapporo, March 24 KYODO—Koko Sato, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Executive Council, said Wednesday Japan will continue to back democratic reform in Russia even if the administration of President Boris Yeltsin is removed.

Sato said in a speech in Sapporo he believes the momentum toward democracy in Russia will not change. He said Western nations and Japan have a responsibility to ensure that the nuclear weapons Russia possesses do not leave the country.

Sato also said that no matter what administration runs Russia, Japan will not alter its insistence that Russia return four disputed islands to Japan's north which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Trade Insurance Agreement With Russia Detailed

OW2403064293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan's Trade Ministry has provided 300 million dollars worth of trade insurance for Japanese exports of materials and machinery to Russia for construction of natural gas pipelines, ministry officials said Wednesday. Eight trading houses, including Itochu Corp., will start exporting steel pipes and digging machinery from the end of this month, the officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said.

The insurance is the first installment of a 700 million dollar deal with the Russian gas enterprise Gasprom agreed last September, they said.

Shipments will be bound mainly for gas fields in west Siberia on a five-year deferred payment basis.

The ministry is also supporting two petroleum deals worth 700 million dollars each as part of assistance to help recover Russian production of oil and natural gas, they said.

Russia's Nuclear Waste Dumping in Sea Reported

OW2403145793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 24 Mar 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] NHK's Vladivostok Bureau has reported that the Russian Navy and the former Soviet Navy have been dumping nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan for nearly 30 years. The bureau said that the dumping continued until December 1992, and that, for the past several years, dumping took place between four and seven times a year.

The bureau's report is based on testimony taken from several Russian citizens who used to be involved in Russia's disposal of nuclear waste into the sea.

According to the testimony, Russia's Pacific Fleet based in Vladivostok was dumping waste from nuclear submarines into the Sea of Japan about 200 kilometers south of Vladivostok. The Pacific Fleet dumped liquid waste directly into the sea. This included secondary cooling water from reactors installed in nuclear submarines.

Also, the fleet packed cloth, gloves, pieces of metal, and other solid nuclear waste into containers which were sunk deep in the sea at a depth of about 3,000 meters.

NHK Vladivostok Bureau said that the fleet dumped nuclear waste six times in 1990, seven times in 1991, and four times in 1992. In 1991, 3,000 tons of liquid waste were dumped which had about 925 billion becquerels of radioactivity. In addition, 373 cubic meters of solid waste contained about 5.92 trillion becquerels. The level of radioactivity believed to have been dumped in 1991 was seven times higher than that permitted by Japanese standards.

NHK found that the Pacific Fleet had been dumping nuclear waste in 10 locations in the sea off Siberia for nearly 30 years since the mid-1960's, and that the dumping into the Sea of Japan continued until December 1992. The Pacific Fleet is now asking the Russian Government for permission to continue disposing of nuclear waste in the sea.

Disposal of nuclear waste into the sea is regulated by the so-called London Treaty. In 1983, member countries adopted a resolution calling for restraint in marine disposal. If the NHK report is verified, the former Soviet Union and Russia, as a matter of national policy, dumped nuclear waste into the sea in the complete contravention of the treaty. The Pacific Fleet has never measured the levels of radioactivity in the water where it has dumped waste. It now, reportedly, has a plan to measure radioactivity levels at the bottom of the Japan Sea this summer for the first time.

As far as the impact of nuclear waste on the environment is concerned, Kiyoshi Nakamura, an official with the National Institute of Radiological Science under the Science and Technology Agency, said:

[Begin Nakamura recording] There is not enough data to make a conclusive statement on whether the dumping of radioactive materials in the Sea of Japan is having a significant impact on the environment. The Science and Technology Agency has been conducting regular tests of sea water samples nationwide, but they have not detected any significant changes in the data. The level of radioactivity in the samples from the Sea of Japan is still about the same as the samples from the Pacific Ocean. [end recording]

Mr. Nakamura added that, even if nuclear waste was dumped into the sea at a depth of 3,000 meters, as reported, it would take a long time before the effects of the waste were detected at the sea's surface because the flow of sea water is slow in the area.

The British newspaper the FINANCIAL TIMES reported in its 24 March edition that, according to a report compiled by the Russian Government, the former Soviet Navy had disposed of a massive volume of nuclear waste in the sea since 1959. The paper reported that the nuclear waste included 18 reactors from nuclear-powered submarines, and that seven of these were discarded still loaded with nuclear fuel. The reactors were reportedly discarded in the Barents Sea and the Sea of Japan.

Greenpeace, an environmentalist group, also reported on Tuesday [23 March] that the former Soviet Navy had disposed of about 13,000 containers filled with nuclear waste into the sea, in addition to nuclear reactors. The Greenpeace statement is also based on the Russian Government report. It is estimated that the total amount of radiation discarded by the Navy is about one-tenth of that emitted from Chernobyl.

Miyazawa 'Not Too Worried' Over Yen Rise

OW2403024493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0238 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa indicated Wednesday that he is not too worried about the yen's recent advance against the U.S. dollar, saying its movement has not been volatile.

Miyazawa was asked by reporters about the yen's record high closing of 115.33 yen against the dollar in Tokyo dealings on Tuesday.

"It's not something to specially worry about if it's not volatile," Miyazawa said, suggesting that there is no need for concern about the yen's rise if its movement is not volatile.

Spokesman Pledges Steps Toward Market Access

OW2403044293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0423 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan pledged Wednesday to take further steps to open its markets and expand domestic demand, responding to a comment by

U.S. President Bill Clinton questioning whether Tokyo will allow real access to imports.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono noted, however, that the trade imbalance is due in part to the rise of the value of the yen against the dollar.

Kono told a news conference that Japan "must also continue to take other measures to expand domestic demand and improve market access." He did not offer specifics, but said that Trade Minister Yoshiro Mori would address specific issues during his planned visit to Washington in advance of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's first meeting with Clinton slated for April 16.

On Tuesday, Clinton told a news conference that Japan's persistent trade surplus with the United States and the rest of the world suggested that "the possibility of obtaining real, even access to the Japanese market is somewhat remote."

Kono said Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. is not shrinking because the high yen is inflating the trade surplus, even though "on a quantity basis, exports are not increasing that much." Japan last year ran up a 43.67 billion dollar trade surplus with the U.S., an increase of 14.3 percent from the previous year, according to Finance Ministry statistics. In recent weeks the yen has risen even further.

Mori is seeking permission from parliament to travel to Washington on Friday for meetings with U.S. Vice President Al Gore, Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. Outstanding trade issues include greater market access for U.S. semiconductors, and higher U.S. tariffs on minivan imports.

Foreign Access Zones Approved for Six Areas

OW2403130793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The government Wednesday approved plans by six provincial administrations to establish foreign access zones to give incentive and support to importers, government officials said.

Approval was given to the areas around Kansai International Airport, Osaka Bay, Kobe Bay, Matsuyama Bay in Ehime Prefecture, Kitakyushu Bay and Nagasaki Airport, the officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said. Hokkaido's Chitose Airport area is expected to get similar approval by the end of the month, they said.

Construction of business facilities will soon start in the six areas with the so-called third sector formula, they added.

The approval is in line with Japan's policy of promoting imports. Import operators will benefit by paying less tax and having more options in raising funds.

After the six areas open for business, the MITI expects that imports arriving by air in the access zones to triple between 1991 and 2000 and surface imports to grow 1.4 times.

Mitsuzuka Says Tokyo Should Front-Load Program

OW2403050193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0436 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Takamatsu, March 24 KYODO—A top leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Wednesday the government should front-load its 10-year program to invest 430 trillion yen in public works to promote Japan's economic recovery. Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, made the remark while commenting on the scheduled April 16 Japan-U.S. summit in an LDP meeting on economic stimulation measures held in Takamatsu on the island of Shikoku.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is scheduled to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton in the Washington summit.

Japan promised to implement the 10-year public works spending program at the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks with the United States. Mitsuzuka said Clinton is likely to ask Miyazawa to stimulate domestic demand as part of measures to reduce Japan's balance of payments surplus amounting to some 110 billion dollars.

At the summit, Japan needs to present specific programs for stimulating the domestic economy, Mitsuzuka said.

MITI: Chip Cooperation With U.S. Reaffirmed

OW2403045593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0433 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan and the United States reaffirmed their cooperation in semiconductor trade during two days of talks which ended Tuesday [23 March] in Hawaii, Trade Ministry officials said Wednesday. "Despite being at odds over setting a new target for the foreign share of the Japanese microchip market, we had amicable discussions as a whole," said one official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) who attended the meeting.

In the Hawaii talks, the U.S. side referred to remarks by U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor indicating hope that Japan will continue to maintain an annual 20 percent average foreign share, the official said. The official said he understood the reference as a U.S. call for Japan to make further efforts to keep the market share for foreign-made chips at an average 20 percent.

The matter may not have been settled as far as the U.S. is concerned, even though the foreign market share momentarily reached 20 percent by the end of 1992 as required by the 1991 bilateral semiconductor trade pact, he said. The official voiced objections to setting a new

target or renewing the existing goal, however, saying, "what the U.S. side said showed only their hope."

Officials Prepare for World Economic Symposium

OW2403124493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0926 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—An international symposium in Tokyo on April 26 on the problems and outlook of the world economy will include officials from the U.S. Federal Reserve board and Japan's Finance Ministry, organizers said Wednesday.

The symposium is specifically about reinvigorating economies of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers and restoring the multilateral trading system. It is being organized by Center for the Study of Financial Markets and supported by Sumitomo-Life Research Institute, both Tokyo-based private think tanks.

Makoto Utsumi, special adviser to Japan's Minister of Finance, will give a keynote speech on new developments in G-7 cooperation.

Lawrence Lindsey, governor of the Federal Reserve, is scheduled to give a speech on G-7 cooperation from the Reserve's viewpoint. Other panelists from the United States include Lionel Olmer, former undersecretary of commerce for international trade, and Robert Zoerick, former undersecretary of state for economic policy.

Japanese panelists include Tomomitsu Oba, president of the Japan Center for International Finance, and Toshihiko Fukui, executive director of the Bank of Japan.

SRV Premier Vo Van Kiet Arrives for Talks

OW2403055493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0545 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet arrived in Japan on Wednesday on an official five-day visit during which he will hold talks with his Japanese counterpart Kiichi Miyazawa.

Kiet is the first Vietnamese premier to visit Japan since Tokyo and Hanoi set up diplomatic ties in 1973. He is scheduled to meet Miyazawa on Thursday and have an audience with Emperor Akihito on Friday.

The Vietnamese prime minister will also meet Japanese business leaders in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe before heading home on Sunday. A Japanese Foreign Ministry official said last week the agenda for talks between Kiet and Miyazawa will take in Japanese economic assistance, trade and investment, intellectual exchanges and political dialogue.

Kono Views DPRK's Lifting of 'Semiwar' State

OW2403081893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0759 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—North Korea's decision to lift its state of "semiwar" may help ease tensions on the Korean peninsula, but Pyongyang must still re oke its decision to pull out of a nuclear treaty, top government spokesman Yohei Kono said Wednesday. "The problem is not yet over," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono said, referring to an official (North) Korean Central News Agency report announcing the end of the state of semiwar.

Pyongyang imposed the alert March 9 in response to joint U.S.-South Korean war games, but some observers in Tokyo said it may have been introduced in response to domestic developments.

Kono said there is still no clear indication whether North Korea will reverse its March 12 decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He said Japan would continue to work with the United States and South Korea to win North Korea's acceptance of inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The IAEA has extended until March 31 its deadline for allowing inspections of two suspected nuclear sites.

Takeshita Decides To Cancel ROK Visit

OW2403061993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0542 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita will cancel his scheduled April 10-12 visit to South Korea for talks with President Kim Yong-sam, parliamentary sources said Wednesday. Takeshita called off the trip in light of public opinion following the arrest and indictment of his retired close ally Shin Kanemaru for alleged tax evasion, the sources said.

Takeshita, the head of an inter-party Japan-South Korea Parliamentary League, was scheduled to visit Seoul as the guest of Kim Jaison [name as received], who heads South Korea's counterpart league. The Japanese league will send someone in Takeshita's place because a date has already been set for talks with the South Korean president, the sources said.

Takeshita was to be the first influential Japanese politician to visit South Korea since Kim took office February 25. He had hoped the trip would serve as an opportunity to resume political activities after an interim brought about by his alleged involvement in a massive mob-and-money scandal, political analysts said.

Miyazawa Denies Donations From Contractors

OW2403054393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0535 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa flatly denied Wednesday receiving political donations from construction companies, a practice in the spotlight as ex-political godfather Shin Kanemaru's tax evasion case unfolds. "It is regrettable that you ask that without any grounds, but I haven't (received money from general contractors)," Miyazawa told the House of Councillors Budget Committee, replying to a question by Shigeko Mieno of No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party.

However, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Construction Minister Kishiro Nakamura, in response to the same question, said they cannot say yes or no for certain, as they have accepted political donations from numerous corporations.

The 78-year-old Kanemaru, who until six months ago was the most powerful politician in Japan, was indicted March 13 on one count of evading taxes of 118 million yen on 200 million yen in income in 1987.

The Tokyo district public prosecutors office is determined to file an additional tax evasion indictment against former ruling party vice president Saturday, according to investigative sources.

Prosecutors reportedly believe Kanemaru, whose fund-raising skills won his de facto control of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), allegedly siphoned off billions of yen in secret donations from companies, mostly in the building sector.

Investigators have expanded a probe into construction companies, which allegedly provided secret donations to Kanemaru. They seized documents from 17 contractors between Saturday and Tuesday in connection with the allegations, the sources said. The contractors reportedly include Japan's five leading construction companies of Kajima Corp., Shimizu Corp., Taisei Corp., Obayashi Corp., and Hazama Corp.

Kanemaru, who was known as the leader of the LDP's construction lobby, is suspected of wielding his influence over the allocation of public works projects to contractors, acording to the sources.

Kanemaru Allegedly Kept 1 Billion Yen in Cash

OW2403130993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1143 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Disgraced ruling party kingpin Shin Kanemaru had kept 1 billion yen in cash in his native Yamanashi Prefecture shortly before the House of Councillors election in 1989, investigative sources said Wednesday. Kanemaru, 78, who was indicted March 13 for allegedly evading taxes on income of 118 million yen in 1987, has been behind the bars while an investigation has been launched into allegations that he evaded taxes after 1989.

The sources said a secretary of Kanemaru delivered the 1 billion yen cash in the spring of 1989 to an office of one of his related companies for use in Kanemaru's constituency of Yamanashi Prefecture. The money is believed to have been used to garner support of ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidates in Yamanashi, the sources said. They said Kanemaru allegedly kept some of the money for himself.

Kanemaru is suspected of having purchased discount bank debentures worth a total 600 million yen from Nippon Credit Bank in 1989 with illicit funds.

Investigators are trying to determine whether there is any connection between the purchases and the 1 billion yen cash, the sources said.

Prosecutors, who plan to indict Kanemaru on further charges Sunday [28 March], are still trying to piece together the overall flow of political donations Kanemaru received in 1989.

The sources said the secretary who delivered the cash was not Kanemaru's former top aid, Masahisa Haibara, 49, who was arrested and indicted on charges of tax evasion along with Kanemaru.

In a related development, prosecutors have so far raided offices of 18 major and medium construction companies to confiscate documents and question officials to determine whether they provided secret political donations to Kanemaru. Investigators believe donations were provided by contractors in exchange for favorable access to public works projects in Yamanashi Prefecture and other areas, the sources said.

Kanemaru enjoyed a considerable influence within the LDP from the mid-1980s until his downfall last October.

Gotoda: Single-Seat System Possibly More Costly

OW2403104493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1012 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Justice Minister Masaharu Gotoda warned Wednesday that a proposed single-seat constituency system might force candidates to spend even greater amounts of campaign funds than the current multi-seat system. In response to a question by Soko Shimabukuro of the Niin Club parliamentary group at the House of Councillors Budget Committee, Gotoda said, "the single-seat constituency system, if introduced, might force candidates to spend more lavishly in their campaigns to get closer (to the voters)."

Gotoda headed the political reform headquarters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) under the administration of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Gotoda said the proposed single-seat system might prove more costly as candidates would need to spend more to curry favor with voters.

Opposition parties have argued that such a system may add fuel to vote-buying practices. If it were introduced, the critics say, the current multi-seat electorate would be divided into smaller constituencies and candidates would be forced to campaign for a smaller number of votes through closer contact.

Gotoda also warned that a single-seat system might slash the parliamentary strength of opposition parties as such a system would be more advantageous to the ruling party.

The LDP is currently pushing for the introduction of the single-seat electorate system as an inseparable part of its package of four "political reform bills." Opposition parties are preparing their own alternative proposals for political reforms.

Shimabukuro urged the government to enhance legal penalties on business firms which neglect to account for shitofumeikin or funds which are unaccounted for, in financial books and tax statements.

"There is a high possibility that this unaccounted money has been funneled to politicians," he charged. In 1992 alone, government statistics show that such funds stood at 55.8 billion yen.

On the issue of fair bidding in public works projects, Japan New Party legislator Kunitaro Takeda urged the government to ban senior Construction Ministry bureaucrats from being recruited by construction firms, a practice known as parachuting. "The government has to boost the power of the board of audit to detect whether contractors are awarded public works projects through a fair bidding procedure or by bid-rigging or designated bidding," he said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa responded that the government needs to bar such parachutists from wielding their influence on the basis of their ties with the ministry to guarantee fairness of public bidding.

LDP Faction Leader Urges Extra Budget in May

OW2403124593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0918 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's smallest faction urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Wednesday to enable Diet passage of a supplementary budget as early as May, while proposing a fiscal package worth 20 trillion yen, party officials said.

Toshio Komoto handed his faction's proposals on a policy for economic recovery to Miyazawa at the Diet, they said.

Komoto was quoted as saying, "expansion of domestic demand is Japan's responsibility toward the world," and calling for an extra budget to prop up the economy to be passed ahead of the summit of Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers to be held in Tokyo in July.

The Komoto faction estimates the extra budget at about 6 billion yen, excluding tax cutbacks. The faction wants the government to facilitate housing construction mainly by utilizing 7.5 trillion yen in loans to be extended by governmental Housing Loan Corp.

It also calls for additional public works projects worth some 6 trillion yen, and an increase of 3 trillion yen in loans by Small Business Finance Corp.

Power Firms To Resume Nuclear Fusion Research

OW2403081493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan's nine electric power firms will resume a joint research project in April to see if it is possible to achieve normal-temperature nuclear fusion, a think tank of the companies said Wednesday. The Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry said the project will be on a larger scale than a smaller project that was abandoned a few years ago.

In the first three months of the new project, efforts will be made to verify whether nuclear fusion can occur at normal temperatures, it said.

The resumption stems from recent reports that scientists at Osaka University and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. had succeeded in detecting heat and neutron energy by passing electricity between platinum and palladium electrodes immersed in heavy water, the institute said.

In 1987, scientists in the United States and Britain claimed to have achieved nuclear fusion at room temperature using a similar method. Researchers around the world tried to repeat the experiment but without remarkable success.

Tokyo Mandates Double-Hull Structure on Tankers

OW2403115893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—The Ministry of Transport will amend its ordinance on Monday [29 March] to require Japanese-flagged tankers to have a double-hull structure, effective from July 6, ministry officials said Wednesday. The move is in line with a resolution last March by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the double-hull structures to prevent oil spills.

Under the resolution, all tankers contracted to be built from July 6 are to have such a structure.

For existing vessels, crude oil tankers with a loading capacity of 20,000 tons and over, and refined oil tankers with a capacity of 30,000 tons and more, will be allowed to operate for no longer than 25 years after being delivered to their owners. But this will be extended to 30 years for those with sanctioned equipment for preventing oil spills.

According to ministry estimates, tankers subject to IMO regulations now total about 2,600 vessels, of which about 70 carry the Japanese flag. Of these, only two or three satisfy the double-hull standard.

With the new regulation, about 50 percent of global tankers will be double-hull types by the year 2000, and 100 percent by 2026, the ministry predicts.

North Korea

Army Commander Lifts 'Semi-War State'

SK2403041893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0300 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] The Korean People's Army [KPA] Supreme Command communique [podo]:

The Korean People's Army supreme commander issues an order on lifting the semi-war state which was declared to the entire country, the entire people, and the entire army.

In connection with the completion of the basic stage of training in the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise that the United States and the South Korean authorities have been conducting with the mobilization of a huge number of troops, the KPA supreme commander issued the order on lifting the state of semi-war which had been proclaimed to the entire country, the entire people, and the entire army as a self-defensive measure to defend our nation's dignity and sovereignty and to smash the enemies' vicious maneuvers for isolating and obliterating the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style.

All who received the KPA supreme commander's order on entering a semi-war state—the people, the officers and men of the KPA and Korean People's Security Forces, and the members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards—have demonstrated to the world once again that our country is a powerful socialist state of chuche with political and military might which no one dares provoke. They have also demonstrated the strong independence of our country by bravely rising up with the firm determination to smash the enemies in one blow with a full combat mobilization posture when provoked.

The supreme principles of activities of our party and the government of the Republic have been not only to firmly defend the popular masses-centered socialist system of our own style on the strength of the entire people's and entire state's defense system and the revolutionary gains achieved in blood, but also to guarantee a more affluent and happier life for the people, including workers and farmers, and to build socialism and communism—the utopia of mankind—by constantly improving their material and cultural life.

All the people and officers and men of the People's Army who are boundlessly loyal to our party's leadership should effect a new revolutionary turn in socialist economic construction and smash at every phase the enemies' provocation maneuvers with the same spirit and mettle that they displayed during the semi-war state. Thus, they should more reliably defend our socialist system and our people's happiness.

This is a year of rewarding struggle and glorious victory, which will be engraved in gold letters in the history of our fatherland. It marks the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, in which we repelled the armed invasion by the U.S. imperialist aggressors, who boasted that they were the strongest in the world. We honorably defended the liberty and independence of the fatherland, thus proudly displaying the heroic Korean people's spirit to the entire world.

The entire country, all the people, and the entire Army should be in high revolutionary alertness [hyongmyongchok kyonggaksong] and maintain militant vigilance [chontujok kinjangsong] so that they can crush in a timely manner any provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. They should effect a great surge in socialist economic construction with the might of wholehearted unity around the party and the leader [suryong] with redoubled courage and the high spirits of victors, so that they can brilliantly mark the 40th anniversary of the victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War.

There will be only victory and glory in the future of our people, who vigorously advance along the single road of socialism under the chuche revolutionary banner.

Let us all unite firmly around the party and move forward in a general march in the struggle to bring forth a great surge in the revolution and construction. Let us have lofty pride in being the chuche Korean people, who resolutely crushed the enemy's new war provocation maneuvers with ever-victorious chuche might, to firmly defend the national dignity and the country's sovereignty and to more dependably defend and add luster to the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style, the fortress of socialism.

'Sources': DPRK May Ease Visa Rules

OW2403125093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1233 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 24 KYODO—North Korea is likely to ease regulations on issuing entry visas to foreigners from Thursday in the wake of the lifting of its "semi-war" state, Western diplomatic sources said Wednesday [24 March].

Pyongyang, which imposed the "semi-war" alert March 9 in response to joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises known as "Team Spirit" surprised other nations by announcing the lifting earlier in the day.

Noting it is the first case for the North to have made such a declaration following the end of the military exercises, the sources said Pyongyang needed to make clear it has ended its recent offensive stance.

Further Reaction to Nuclear Treaty Withdrawal

'Peace Committee' Supports Action

SK2403081593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The Korean National Peace Committee in a statement March 23 welcomed and fully supported the DPRK Government's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], saying it considered the step, which was taken at a time when the United States and some reactionary quarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] were threatening the security of the DPRK and increasing the danger of nuclear war, to be a patriotic measure to defend the national dignity and sovereignty and save the whole nation from disasters of a nuclear war.

The statement says:

"Now they are raising a hue and cry over the legitimate self-defensive measure of our Republic, expressing 'concern' and urging its 'revocation.' This is a shameless claim little short of a robber's demand for the host to make a 'concession' and 'apology.'

"The United States must not resort to the outmoded way of thinking of the cold war era but lend an ear to the demand of the times, declare a final stop to the 'Team Spirit' joint military exercise that creates the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, immediately stop attempting to force apsspecial inspection' aimed at stifling us through international organizations and pull its troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea.

"We demand that the IAEA maintain impartiality and strict neutrality, instead of following the United States, and apologize for its criminal act in abusing the NPT to threaten the sovereignty and security of our Republic, a non-nuclear state.

"The Japanese Government must give up its moves for nuclear armament that poses a menace to peace on the Korean peninsula and in Asia and promptly stop its crafty attempt to fish in troubled waters by taking advantage of the U.S. 'nuclear racket' intended to stifle us.

"We hope that the world's peaceloving people and political and public figures will express full support and solidarity for our republic's fair and aboveboard stand.

'South Korean People' Support Action

SK2303040493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 22 (KCNA)—The declaration of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty has evoked widespread repercussions upon South Korean people of all strata.

A writer surnamed Yi said:

"The United States which had been boastful of being a big power became crestfallen before a sheet of a statement.

"The North which can hardly match the United States in the size of territory and population humbled the pride of the United States. The North has, indeed, political faith and principle and mysterious potentials. This inspires us with higher hope that our nation will surely be reunified and will live an independent life even under the complicated current situation in the surrounding areas".

A certain Choe, an artist, denounced the South Korean authorities for talking about "sanctions" against the North. He said: "The authorities are running about in league with outside forces to crush fellow countrymen. They should recover their reason, though belately, and look squarely at the reality".

A student of Seoul National University surnamed Kim said:

"Even if all nuclear bombs on the globe are exploded, they cannot be more powerful than the DPRK government statement."

A sportsman surnamed Kim in Seoul said that though the United States is bluffing, it does not work on the North with tremendous potentials.

Choe Yong-chol, a fisherman residing in Tangjin County, South Chungchong Province, said that no country in the world can dare provoke the North. "This is because there are the great President Kim Il-song and leader Kim Chong-il so deeply revered by the world people," he added.

'Anti-Nuke' Committee Supports Action

SK2303055893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The Korean Anti-Nuke Peace Committee issued a statement March 22 welcoming and warmly supporting the withdrawal of the DPRK Government from the Nonproliferation Treaty which it said is a most just and timely measure for peace.

"If anyone thinks he can derail the Korean people from the socialist track of their own choice by means of 'iron fist' under the pretext of 'nuclear problem,' it is a foolish dream," said the statement.

It demanded that the United States refrain from the foolish attempt at "internationalizing" the fictitious "nuclear problem" of the DPRK and stifling socialist Korea and withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea, first of all.

"If the International Atomic Energy Agency intends to fulfil its obligation properly on the principle of international justice and impartiality," the statement stressed, "it must discontinue its unreasonable one-sided stance of following the United States, revoke the 'resolution on special inspection' of military facilities of the DPRK and begin with an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea."

'Overseas Koreans' Denounce IAEA

SK2303230093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—Overseas Koreans are denouncing the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities and the International Atomic Energy Agency's "resolution on special inspection".

The Gathering of Korean Workers in Europe, an overseas compatriots' organization, charged in a statement that the United States and the South Korean authorities were bringing Korea to a tense situation in which the terrible disaster of a nuclear war may befall it, by staging the "Team Spirit 93".

Recalling that the United States made the IAEA demand the "special inspection" by supplying unilateral "intelligence information" to it, the statement said: "It is an act of violating the regulations of the agency and a crime in paralysing the function of this international organization whose life and soul is strict neutrality and reducing it to a waiting maid of big powers."

Kang Il, chairman of the committee for the promotion of Korea's Reunification in the Commonwealth of Independent States ("ASOK"), told the KCNA correspondent in-Moscow that the DPRK Government's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty was a legitimate self-defensive measure.

"The United States and the South Korean authorities instigated some officials of the IAEA to adopt a 'resolution on special inspection', in step with the 'Team Spirit 93' joint military maneuverings," he noted, and said: "This is intended to justify the presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea and cover up nuclear development by Japan and South Korea."

Ku Chol-su, chairman of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification in the Commonwealth of Independent States, said in a statement that the South Korean authorities' anti-national act of staging the "Team Spirit 93" military games is detrimental to the desire of the entire nation for reunification and to the implementation of the North-South agreement.

Kim Chong-su, chairman of the Association of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification, in a statement urged the South Korean authorities to stop the joint military exercises and show in action their will and position towards national unity and reunification.

NODONG SINMUN: Treaty Withdrawal 'Legitimate'

SK2403114393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1102 GMT 24 Mar 93

["Patriotic Measure for Interests and Safety of Nation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The DPRK's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) is a legitimate self-defensive measure for defending the dignity and security of the country and a patriotic step for firmly safeguarding and guaranteeing the interests and safety of the whole nation, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

It goes on: The DPRK has sincerely implemented its commitment to the NPT and undergone several rounds of inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In this course the honesty of the DPRK's peaceful nuclear policy was proved. This notwithstanding, the United States staged the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test nuclear war, to openly threaten the DPRK, a non-nuclear state, talking about fictitious "nuclear suspicion" of the DPRK, instead of withdrawing nuclear weapons from South Korea and manipulated some officials of the IAEA Secretariat to adopt a resolution on "special inspection" of our military sites which have no relevance to nuclear activities. If a nuclear war exercise and clamor for "special inspection" under the pretext of the "suspicion of nuclear development" by the North lead to a war against the North, it would plunge the North and South of Korea as a whole into the holocaust of a nuclear war.

The DPRK Government's withdrawal from the NPT is a just step reflecting the unshakable faith and will of our people to check and frustrate the vicious aggression and nuclear war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and defend the safety of the nation and the supreme interests of the country. All the Koreans who worry over the destiny and future of the nation should jointly counter the unreasonable move of the United States and its followers to use force against them, firmly united under the banner of independence and peace in order to ensure that our nation is not made a victim of big powers. If the United States and the South Korean authorities think they can stifle our socialist system with "strength", it is a serious mistake.

Daily: U.S. Calls for Strikes 'Open Provocation'

SK2403110693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055 GMT 24 Mar 93

["Bellicose Rigmarole"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—If the United States attempt to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with military "strikes," acting a "superpower," it is a serious mistake, declares MINJU CHOSON today.

The news analyst notes:

John Murtha, member of the House of Representatives of the United States, recently said that the DPRK should "reconsider" its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and if this demand were not met, "limited strikes" on Korea should be prepared. This is an open provocation against the DPRK.

It is foolish of the U.S. bellicose quarters to attempt to frighten the DPRK with military "strikes" or anti-DPRK actions.

The Korean people are determined to destroy at one stroke any aggressors encroaching upon the dignity of the nation and defend the socialist country, defying death, united in one mind around the party and the leader.

Should the U.S. imperialists make another adventure, taking issue with the DPRK's self-defensive measure, all the Korean people will turn out to decisively frustrate their anti-DPRK moves.

The U.S. warmaniacs must be clearly mindful that if they start another war against the Korean people with "military superiority" as the backbone of their policy of strength, they will get nothing but their death.

Daily: U.S. To Perpetuate 'Occupation' in South

SK2403111693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 24 Mar 93

["NODONG SINMUN Slams the United States' Intention To Permanently Occupy S. Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The chief of staff of the U.S. Army, when he met with a highly placed official of the Japan Defence Agency, distorted fact by claiming that the situation of the Korean peninsula has become unstable owing to the DPRK's self-defensive step of withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. And he said that "the U.S. troops should be kept in South Korea until the Korean peninsula becomes stable."

This revealed the invariable intention of the U.S. to perpetuate its forces' occupation of South Korea under this or that pretext, NODONG SINMUN says in a commentary today.

The analyst notes:

It is not us but the United States that has made the situation of the Korean peninsula unstable. The United States has deployed tens of thousands of its troops in South Korea and has led the situation to the extreme pitch of strain by staging various forms of war games.

The United States had argued in the past that its forces present in South Korea were a "deterrent" to the "threat of invasion from the North" and, when an atmosphere of reconciliation and detente was created between the North and the South of Korea, it claimed that they were forces to block the non-existent "nuclear development" by the DPRK.

However, today when the honesty of our peaceful nuclear policy has been verified, it is seeking to justify its troops' permanent occupation of South Korea under the pretext of "instability" created by the DPRK's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The U.S. scheme to keep its forces in South Korea is so crafty and persistent.

With no pretext can the United States justify its forces' occupation of South Korea.

'Sources' Report 'One More' U.S.-South Exercise

SK2403075893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets on March 22 staged one more provocative joint ground strike exercise against the North in the skies above Muju, Umsong and Yongwol with more than 350 warplanes mobilized in the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises, including F-16s, pursuit-assault planes and carrier-based aircraft, according to military sources.

In separate action that day, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets sent U-2, RF-4C and other reconnaissance planes to the sky above the Military Demarcation Line to commit aerial espionage on the coastline, frontline and inland areas of the northern half of Korea.

Japanese Paper: DPRK Develops Nuclear-Capable Missile

OW2303234293 Tokyo KYODO in English 2311 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—North Korea has developed a medium-range missile capable of carrying nuclear weapons, a Japanese newspaper reported Wednesday [24 March] quoting military sources in Tokyo.

The SANKEI SHIMBUN said North Korea secretly exported the missile, called Nodong-1, to Iran last year.

According to the report, Nodong-1 has a 1,000-kilometer maximum range which would allow it to reach western Japan. The range beats the 300-kilometer capability of the Scud-B and the 600 kilometers that the Scud-C can reach.

North Korea imported Scud missiles from then Soviet Union in 1984 and began production of the Scud-B in

1987, the SANKEI reported. It exported Scud-B missiles to Iran and Scud-C missiles to Syria, the daily said.

NODONG SINMUN Warns Japan on 'Slanders' of DPRK

SK2403061993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 24 Mar 93

["NODONG SINMUN Hits at Distortion of Fact by Some Japanese Media"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—If Japan continues its rash act on the side of the United States, a warring nation against the DPRK, it will invite unpredictable consequences and Japan will have to bear responsibility for all problems arising therefrom, warns NODONG SINMUN today.

The SANKEI SHIMBUN and some other newspapers of Japan said the DPRK's withdrawal from the Nonproliferation Treaty was "a dangerous act bringing tension again to the Far East" and would "precipitate international isolation of North Korea," the news analyst notes, and goes on:

This is a wanton distortion of the reality which does not deserve even a passing note; it is an insult to us.

If those media of Japan had an iota of the sense of justice and conscience and valued the objectivity and impartiality of the press, they should not have connived at but blamed the United States and Japan for having aggravated the situation on the Korean peninsula, and should not have taken issue but sympathized with the self-defensive measure the DPRK was compelled to take to safeguard the supreme interests of the nation and reported about our just demand as it is. Japanese media, however, report good things as bad and vice versa.

They play the role of a servant of the reactionary forces bent on impairing the prestige of the DPRK and isolating it internationally and serve for Japan's military buildup and nuclear armament.

The Japanese Government authorities are manipulating the media to build up public opinion against the DPRK and make it an established fact that Japan should be armed with nuclear weapons and become a military power.

Japan, however, is seriously mistaken. The more Japan slanders others, the more its dark intention will be brought to light. Rash acts will bring nothing good to Japan.

Interview With Kim Il-song Published in Hungary

SK2403075093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—"Answers to Questions Raised by a Delegation of Journalists of WASHINGTON TIMES From the United States," an immortal classical work of the great leader President Kim Il-song, (published on April 12, 1992) was brought out in booklet by the Pal Publishing and Printing House of Hungary.

The work gives clear answers to a series of matters setting out, among other things, the view that if the United States amends its Korea policy in accordance with the trend of the present times, a smooth solution will be found to the question of improving Korea-U.S. relations, and that if Japan becomes a military power, she will end in self-destruction.

Russian Paper Views North, South Tax Differences

SK2403113393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The Russian paper ROSSISKAYA PRAVDA carried in its 8th issue an article on difference between the North and the South of Korea in taxation.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has exempted people from taxation and people do not know what tax is like, the paper said, and went on:

"In the DPRK children have right to eat from the moment they are born.

"The state supplies rice to all working people at a price next to nothing.

"The state also regularly supplies clothes to them according to their jobs.

"Dwelling-houses are built by the state funds and provided to people free of charge in the DPRK.

"Free education system has long been enforced in the DPRK and the state spends 15,800 won to educate a student up to university from nursery and kindergarten.

"This equals to a total amount of wage to be earned by a worker for 13 years supposing he gets 100 won on a monthly average.

"In South Korea where 'freedom' and 'democracy' are loudly advertised most of people are left without any social protection of food, clothing and housing related to the elementary right to existence.

"Taxes wringing the necks of people and prices are on a steady increase, education and doctors' fees are very high and houses are desperately short. They should pay various kinds of taxes and fees such as income tax, house rent, property and land taxes and water charge. Living men have pay for the soul and death. They have to pay inheritance tax when they die.

"A South Korean radio reported that all people should pay taxes amounting to 1,115,000 won in 1992."

'Sources': Pyongyang Starts Strict Energy Saving

OW2403114093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 24 KYODO—North Korea, facing a serious energy shortage, has imposed stern electric power savings regulations in Pyongyang and warned that offenders will be expelled from the capital, Western diplomatic sources reported Wednesday [24 March]. The sources in the North Korean capital, citing city ordinances posted on streets, said the monthly ceiling of electricity consumption was set at 50 kilowatts per household and residents were required to register all electric appliances in use.

Residents found violating the regulations will be stripped of the right to live in the capital and expelled from the city together with their family members, the sources said. The ordinance accused antiparty elements of wasting electricity supplies to destroy the country's socialist system, the sources said. The sources said North Korea's electric power output in 1992 dropped 12.5 percent from the preceding year to 28 billion kilowatts per hour, 42 billion kilowatts per hour short of the country's total demand.

The government has set the country's electric power production target at 100 billion kilowatts per hour this year, the final year of the current third seven-year economic development plan. In Japan, Tokyo Electric Power Co. officials said the 50 kilowatts per hour ceiling set by North Korea is about one fifth of the current level in Japan. They said North Korean factories were operating at 30-40 percent capacity due to the energy shortage and the amount of coal, which accounts for 70 percent of the country's energy resources, declined for the fifth straight year in 1992 to an estimated 47 million tons, down 20,000 tons from the previous year.

Reaction to Former War Correspondent's Return Noted

MINJU CHOSON Praises Return

SK2403080393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 24 Mar 93

["MINJU CHOSON Calls for Learning From Yi In-mo's Unshakable Faith and Strong Will"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The struggle and life of Comrade Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army who returned to the embrace of the socialist motherland, prove the invaluable truth that human dignity and value lie in keeping to one's revolutionary faith and will, and his ideological and moral traits serve our people as a good example, says MINJU CHOSON in an editorial March 23.

The daily quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Yi In-mo is the incarnation of faith and will. There will be no other person in the world like Yi In-mo who has unshakable faith and strong will."

The editorial entitled "Let Us Become Indomitable Revolutionary Soldiers Unfailingly Loyal to the Party and the Leader by Following the Example of Comrade Yi In-mo" says:

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il highly appraised Comrade Yi In-mo as the incarnation of faith and will, as the incarnation of revolutionary faith and will and gave a scientific elucidation of the formation of revolutionary faith and will and their solidness and continuity. And he clearly indicated the direction and ways of following his noble example, not forgetting his heroic deed.

It is a great pride of our motherland to have such an indomitable human being, the incarnation of faith and will, as Comrade Yi In-mo whom our party highly estimates and puts to the fore.

For the officials and working people to thoroughly prepare themselves as true revolutionaries possessed of unswerving faith and strong will like Comrade Yi In-mo, upholding the party's intention, is of weighty significance in consolidating our revolutionary ranks, firmly defending and glorifying our cause of socialism.

When all the people are possessed of unfailing faith and will like Comrade Yi In-mo can the driving force of our revolution based on the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses be strengthened in every way, any moves of the enemy be smashed decisively and the dignity of chuche Korea and the revolutionary mettle of our people displayed to the full.

What is important in following the example of Comrade Yi In-mo is to establish a revolutionary attitude toward the leader and have unshakable conviction of the justice of the socialist cause and its victory as well as strong will, the editorial stresses.

Kang Song-san Sees Film on Yi's Life

SK2403104393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—Parts 11 and 12 of multi-part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" depicting Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and a long-term prisoner who refused to be converted, were released.

Kang Song-san and other party and government senior officials saw part 11 of the multi-part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" on March 23.

Through the depiction of hero Yi Chong-mo, an indomitable fighter and the incarnation of faith and will, who has defended the revolutionary principle to the last even under severe torture and appeasement for conversion during his prison term of 34 years, the film impressively tells that nothing can break the faith and will of a

revolutionary soldier brought by our party and one can remain forever a son of the party and the country only when he is true to the constancy of a revolutionary.

The film is one more monumental work successfully representing a noble and staunch ideological and spiritual world of a man who has defended his faith and will in any adversity.

Talk Praises Repatriation of Yi In-mo

SK2403131793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1434 GMT 20 Mar 93

["Unattributed talk": "The Socialist Victory Over Capitalism"]

[Text] As has been already reported, former war correspondent Comrade Yi In-mo came to the bosom of the socialist fatherland from the desperate South Korean society.

On the hundreds of streets from Panmunjom to Pyongyang through Kaesong and Sanwon, people in the northern half of the Republic warmly welcomed Comrade Yi In-mo like they would their family members with their warmhearted comradeship. His family members and relatives welcomed him with deep emotion as well.

Comrade Yi In-mo came to the socialist bosom of the northern half of the Republic, a true bosom of life, from the desperate South Korean society. This is a precious result of the sincere efforts of our party and the government of our Republic that regard revolutionary fighters as most valuable. This is also another event that demonstrates the socialist victory and superiority over capitalism.

In short, this is a victory of the indomitable will of the revolutionary fighter who has a firm faith in socialism. This is also a victory of the extraordinary superiority of socialism over capitalism.

In their protracted and ardent struggles, our people have established chuche socialism under the party's and the leader's wise leadership. Therefore, chuche socialism is our people's faith and life.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: In the course of developing history, we proved that socialist ideology is just, and that socialism is highly superior to capitalism.

The justice of the socialist cause enables our revolutionaries and people to cherish their faith in victory and their indomitable will for socialism. The superiority of the socialist system makes them vigorously struggle to sacrifice themselves to safeguard, adhere to, and glorify socialism. It also makes people in the socialist society admire socialism indefinitely. This is a truth proven by our people's historical struggle for socialism.

For a long time, our people have aspired for the new independent society without exploitation and oppression. They have waged a protracted struggle for its realization. Our people's such long-cherished desire is brilliantly realized by the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who is leading the Korean revolution; who is victoriously pioneering the socialist and communist causes; and who is building the popular mass-oriented socialism of our own style under the banner of chuche Korea.

In the course of realizing the socialist cause, our people have embarked upon an independent and creative revolutionary road under the leadership of the party and the leader. They have enjoyed their true life under the socialist system in conformity with the nature of independent mankind.

Therefore, our people have firmly trusted in the justice of the chuche socialist cause. They have also cherished a firm faith in the leadership of the party and the leader. With their indomitable will, they have safeguarded, adhered to, and glorified socialism.

Even the past repatriation of Koreans residing in Japan to the socialist fatherland—a so-called great historical national movement from capitalism to socialism—is mainly based on their firm faith in the justice of the socialist cause and in the superiority of the socialist system.

As proven in the phrases in Comrade Yi In-mo's daily, he has retained his fidelity to the end as a revolutionary fighter of the party and the leader without yielding to oppression, torture, and temptation committed by the South Korean authorities for nearly 40 years. He came to the bosom of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, separating from South Korean society where the tyranny of money, power, and fascist oppression are rampant. This is because he is very confident of socialism, and because he has cherished his firm will to live in the bosom of the socialist fatherland.

He has returned to the bosom of the socialist fatherland. This is a victory of his will and faith in socialism. He wanted to come to the bosom of the party and the leader five years ago. He has cherished, however, his firm faith in socialism since his childhood. His faith in socialism is fortified based on his confidence in the greatness of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, who has pioneered the socialist cause in our country; who has liberated the fatherland by leading anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; who has founded a party, state, and army after the liberation of the fatherland; and who has established a new society where the popular masses live as masters.

One's faith in socialism can be cherished only when one is confident of the justice of the socialist cause. The justice of the socialist cause can be guaranteed by the leader's idea and the greatness of his leadership.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song embarked on the revolutionary road in the harsh period in which the Japanese imperialist aggressors had trampled upon our people's destiny. He, reflecting the popular masses' aspiration and the demands of the times, has created an immortal chuche idea. Based on this, he has pioneered the chuche revolutionary cause—the popular masses' cause for independence—and the socialist and communist cause. He has also pioneered the road of our revolution based on the might of the popular masses.

Comrade Yi In-mo, an ardent youth, grew up hearing gun shots of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters led by the great leader. He has cherished a firm faith that the national ressurection and reunification can be realized only when one moves forward under the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song's leadership, and that the popular masses can enjoy their true existence only under his leadership.

After liberating the fatherland, Comrade Yi In-mo has contributed to building a new and powerful fatherland under the leadership of the party and the leader. In the course of this, he was confident of the justice and invincibility of the party's and the leader's idea and cause. He served as a war correspondent of the People's Army in order to safeguard the people's fatherland and the party's cause during the Fatherland Liberation War. Comrade Yi In-mo, who could not come over to the northern half of the Republic at that time, was arrested by the South Korean authorities during his struggle for terminating the colonial ruling in South Korea and for achieving the cause for national reunification. He was in prison for nearly 30 years. He has, however, retained to the end his faith and will as a revolutionary fighter of the party and the leader enduring any harsh situation without abandoning his revolutionary faith.

The South Korean puppet clique could not quell Comrade Yi In-mo's faith and will with whatever harsh torture and enticement. Therefore, the South Korean puppet clique yielded to his iron-willed faith and will, thus making it inevitable for Yi's repatriation to the bosom of the socialist fatherland. As such, Comrade Yi In-mo's repatriation is the revolutionary fighters' victory in faith and will of socialism, which was fostered by the great leader and the great party. Another reason that Comrade Yi In-mo embraced the bosom of the socialist fatherland is that the superiority of socialism over capitalism is beyond comparison.

Capitalism is an antipeople's society where a minimum number of the privileged adhere to their money and power while suppressing and exploiting the working popular masses. However in a socialist society the popular masses are the masters, and it is a people's paradise which develops in accordance with the cohesion and unity of the popular masses' creativity.

The popular masses are struggling through comradely unity with the high awareness and capability of being masters. Here lies the essence of a socialist society and a driving force to promote the development of the socialist society.

Socialism of our own style provided by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and elucidated by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, is a community bound together by common fate and a large revolutionary family in which the leader, the party, and the masses are united through ideology, will, morality, and integrity.

Our socialist fatherland gave Comrade Yi In-mo the faith, courage, and strength to not to fear the prison and dagger in the pitch-dark land of South Korea where the colonial military fascist dictatorship is standing unchallenged. It gave him the courage to fight unyieldingly.

Our socialist society is a social and political organic body in which the party, the leader, and the masses share the same fate. In this large revolutionary family, the people are receiving the great love of the party and the leader. They are leading a worthwhile life. They are also sincerely upholding the party and the leader, and every member of society help and guide each other, thus realizing the brilliant ideal.

Our socialist fatherland overflows with revolutionary integrity and comradely love. An individual's life blossoms under the care of the society and group and through this political life is elucidated. Our fatherland never forgot Comrade Yi In-mo, its loyal son, and always looked after him. When he did not return from the showdown with the enemy, the fatherland honored Comrade Yi In-mo as a martyr, and bestowed his family with love and benevolence that is to be handed down generation after generation. Upon hearing the miraculous news that he was alive and was unyieldingly fighting against the enemies, measures from the party and state level were taken and multi-faceted struggles to realize his repatriation were organized.

Due to the bosom of the great party and the great leader [yongdoja] that protects and looks after the fate of all members of society, and the socialist fatherland where a true life is blossoming, Comrade Yi In-mo was not lonely even though he lived in the pitch-dark land of South Korea without any one of his flesh and blood for some 40 years. He was able to live indomitably always yearning for the bosom of the fatherland. Thus it was finally possible for him to embrace the bosom of the socialist fatherland which is great and full of kindness.

As such, Comrade Yi In-mo's repatriation is a victory of the superiority of socialism over capitalism which is beyond comparison. The life of a true revolutionary and patriot lives eternally in the bosom of the great leader along with the socialist fatherland.

After reading the letter sent by Comrade Yi In-mo's daughter, Yi Hyon-ok, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a personal letter saying that our party has not forgotten Comrade Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will. This is an expression of loyalty to the

revolutionary fighter by the party and the leader, and an expression of friendship and love.

Comrade Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will, will enjoy a brilliant life in the bosom of the great leader, the great party, and the great socialist fatherland. He will also further elucidate his political life.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Scientists

SK2303214193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the scientists of the Botanical Institute of the biological branch of the Academy of Sciences and Scientists and employees of the Publishing and Printing Scientific Institute who have achieved a great success in their scientific research.

The scientists of the Botanical Institute succeeded in cultivating a medicinal herb effective for the promotion of people's health through their seven years of indefatigable researches.

This medicinal herb is being cultivated in different parts of the country and used in preventing diseases and producing medicines.

The publishing and printing scientific institute solved new scientific and technical matters with our own raw material and materials and introduced them into practice.

Student Meeting Inaugurates New Organization

SK2403080093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—The National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) of South Korea held a general meeting of its representatives on March 20 and decided to dissolve it for further advance and inaugurate the "National Federation of General Student Councils" (Chonchongnyon), a new student organisation, at the end of April, according to reports from Seoul.

Chondaehyop stated that the preparatory committee for forming Chonchongnyon would be active as a temporary organisation of student representatives till that time.

The preparatory committee at a press conference earlier clarified the orientation of the activities of Chonchongnyon, stating that it would struggle mainly for the release of prisoners of conscience and the abolition of the "National Security Law" and against the "Team Spirit" war exercises and draw the masses into the reunification movement.

The committee stated in particular that Jonchongnyon will set it as its goal to fight for the complete abolition of the "National Security Law" within this year and set up an all-people measure body to wage an extensive struggle against the "government".

Workers Meet Targets in Urban Street Construction

SK2303214293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 23 (KCNA)—Another new street is taking shape in Kanggye city situated in the northern inland of Korea.

The street is being built in a peculiar style to suit the mountainous city. A driveway with a bike-lane and a walkway will stretch straight in a 1,700 odd metre long section and multi-storeyed dwelling houses for more than 3,000 families and public service establishments will be built on either side of the road.

When the project completed, not only the housing problem of the citizens will be solved more satisfactorily, but the looks of the city will largely change and traffic will become more convenient.

Builders of the street are now overfulfilling their daily construction plan by 50 to 100 percent, while keeping themselves in full combat readiness upholding the order of Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army to the whole country, all the people and the entire army to switch over to a semi-war state.

Defending Socialism Against 'Formidable Enemy' Urged

SK2403114693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1106 GMT 24 Mar 93

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Having Firm Faith in Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—It is the unshakable faith and will of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to defend socialism to the end from any formidable enemy. The entire party members and other working people must deeply understand the indomitable will of our party and have a firm faith in socialism and defend it to the last.

This is stressed in a NODONG SINMUN editorial today.

The party members and other working people must deeply study the classical work of the dear leader "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable" and have faith in socialism so as to repulse the challenge of the enemy and safeguard our socialism, says the editorial.

If they are to have faith in socialism, it adds, they must equip themselves firmly with the socialist idea of chuche and cherish in their heart the iron will of our party to carry the socialist cause to accomplishment through whatever storm.

The vivid reality of our socialism, the embodiment of the socialist idea of chuche, is an important source of the faith in socialism, says the editorial, and continues:

From the tragic realities of the countries where socialism has collapsed and capitalism has come back, we must learn the lesson that without socialism there can be neither human dignity nor happiness.

If the party members and other working people are to have faith in socialism, they must also know clearly the reactionary essence of all abuses of socialism by the imperialists and determinedly smash them.

KCNA Reviews 24 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK2403114293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that newspapers of different countries carried "Young People Must Honourably Accomplish the Revolutionary Cause of Chuche Upholding the Leadership of the Party", a letter of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The press carries an account of a meeting held to mark the 10th anniversary of the on-the-spot guidance of President Kim Il-song to the Academy of Sciences.

According to the press, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the Pyongyang municipal general traffic bureau and organs and enterprises under it that set examples in assisting the People's Army.

NODONG SINMUN prints solidarity letters to Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party and state leaders denouncing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities and the clamours of the U.S. and the International Atomic Energy Agency for "special inspection".

Appearing in the paper is a message of condolences sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the Pakistan Muslim League upon the death of its Chairman Mohammad Khan Junejo.

Vice-president Yi Chong-ok left Pyongyang for a visit to India as special envoy of President Kim Il-song, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for smashing challenges of the enemies and defending Korean-style socialism with socialism as a faith.

Econews of the press includes reports that working people in all parts of the country are effecting innovations in the production of iron, steel and coal and in railway transportation and sowing the field, maintaining a strained and mobilized posture.

It is reported in the press that tree-planting ceremonies of school youth and children took place in all parts of the country and party and government cadres appreciated the multi-part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" (Part 11) portraying Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will.

Under the title "Let Ten Million Become Yi In-mo To Uphold Our Party Forever!", NODONG SINMUN carries the determination of Korean people of all strata to follow the example of Yi In-mo who was true to his revolutionary principle before coming back to the embrace of the Republic.

Taking much space of the paper are a statement of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea supporting the statement of the DPRK Government declaring its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, an article headlined "Patriotic Measure for the Interests and Safety of the Nation" and foreign public voices supporting the statement.

NODONG SINMUN in commentaries denounce the outcries of the U.S. Army chief of staff for the permanent presence of the U.S. troops in South Korea and Japan's slanders at the decision of the DPRK to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

MINJU CHOSON runs a commentary condemning U.S. reactionary ruling circles for crying for a "limited strike" in connection with the self-defensive measure taken by the DPRK.

The press draws the attention of readers to the air nuclear strike and joint air war exercises staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

The world public flailed the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities says the press. "Totalitarianism Is Ruling Method of Capitalist Society" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

The press introduces the Russian political situation which is getting worse these days.

South Korea

DPRK Cancels Gift Purchase for Kim Il-song

SK2403002293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0013 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 (YONHAP)—North Korea won't give paramount leader Kim Il-song any gifts for his birthday on April 15, the Japanese newspaper the YOMIURI SHIMBUN said Wednesday. The government made the decision because the North Korean economy was in serious condition, the YOMIURI quoted a Western source familiar with North Korean affairs as saying. North Korea annually purchases 100 million U.S. dollars of foreign luxuries as gifts for Kim on his birthday.

Foreign Minister Arrives in New York for UN Talks

SK2403020293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] United Nations, March 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu will open key negotiations with the United Nations and the Security Council of the world body Wednesday as time closes in on North Korea's nuclear problem. Han, barely a month in office, arrived in New York on Tuesday to consult with the global body and the new administration in Washington after North Korea's bombshell announcement March 12 that it was leaving the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

The foreign minister is to meet with U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Security Council chairman for March Terence O'Brien, the New Zealand ambassador. He will also meet with Ambassadors David Hannay of Britain, Jean- Bernard Merimee of France and Yoshio Hatano of Japan for extensive discussions on North Korea's nuclear controversy.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) adopted a resolution giving Pyongyang until end of this month to open up two key suspected nuclear sites to special inspection. The IAEA has never conducted a special inspection, and it is expected to pass the issue on to the Security Council if North Korea does not comply with its demand.

While Seoul seeks a "two-track approach" through South-North Korean dialogue and more global action through international organizations such as the Security Council, it is hopeful of finding a peaceful solution before the problem develops into an international issue. Han is to deliver this position to the representatives at the United Nations during talks Wednesday and Thursday, but will also discuss possible sanctions against North Korea if it continues to hide its nuclear program from international sight.

Another critical meeting will come on Thursday, when Han is to talk with Chinese Ambassador Chen Jian. Beijing, one of the last remaining North Korean allies, remains more passive than Seoul wants in influencing Pyongyang to rejoin the NPT and accept IAEA inspections. Han will repeat Seoul's request that Beijing actively intervene to bring North Korea around before any U.N. actions.

The Korean foreign minister began his first U.N. contact with Deputy U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker, who is in charge of nuclear affairs within the U.S. administration. Walker briefed Han on recent developments and discussions at the Security Council and pledged continued cooperation with the Seoul government, officials said.

The five permanent members of the council are discussing North Korea's nuclear problem and a majority of U.N. countries have an interest in this issue, Walker told Han. The foreign minister goes to Washington on Thursday for talks with President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other U.S. policymakers.

ROK-Russia Cooperation 'On Hold' Due to Unrest

SK2403012393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0039 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—Prospects for a resumption of economic cooperation between South Korea and Russia have taken a turn for the worse because of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's political difficulties. All bilateral agreements on economic cooperation reached during Yeltsin's visit to Seoul last November have virtually come to a halt and the volume of trade could start to decline, South Korean government officials said Wednesday. The agreements include resumption of tied loans for purchases of consumer goods, Korean participation in Russian projects for the commercial use of military technology and joint development of Russian natural resources.

The future of bilateral economic relations between the two countries looked good until Yeltsin was forced into a political squabble with hard-line parliamentarians. In a fast developing and precarious situation, Yeltsin faces possible impeachment by the country's supreme legislature.

At the summit meeting between Yeltsin and then-President No Tae-u, the Seoul government agreed to resume providing Russia with tied loans on condition that Russia pay interest on the loans it had already drawn. Since Russia had paid some 186 million U.S. dollars in interest on the tied loans, Korea was expected to provide more loans if Moscow paid only 3.2 million dollars in interest for the months of January and February, the officials said.

As for the interest due on a 36.8 million-dollar commercial loan to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Russia agreed in February to pay Korea in aluminum ingots. The first shipment of 3,000 tons of ingots was scheduled to be loaded at the Russian far eastern port of Nakhodka, but this, too, was being held up because of political instability in Moscow, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Korean companies are extremely reluctant to proceed with their proposed participation in Russian projects, the officials said. In the case of Yakutsk natural gas development, one of the largest joint projects, for instance, a second meeting of a consortium formed among Russia, Korea and the Saha Republic had been scheduled for Yakutsk in March but it was called off because of the political situation, the officials said. In another instance, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. and the Lucky-Goldstar Group had planned to build a trade center in Moscow but this project is also being held up.

Other proposed projects, including for the production of electronic appliances and automobiles, are also on hold, the officials said.

Trade between the two countries is proceeding normally so far, but if the political instability in Moscow continues it is bound to suffer, officials at large trading firms predict. Korea's trade with Russia, which dropped 28.5 percent in 1992 from the previous year, began to show a sign of recovery in the first two months of this year with Korean exports rising 8.2 percent from a year earlier and imports rising 21.1 percent.

Former President Nixon, Senator Robb To Visit in Apr

SK2403055893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0327 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—U.S. Senator Charles Robb, chairman of the East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Comittee on Foreign Relations, will visit South Korea on April 4-5 during a tour that also takes him to Japan, China, Thailand and Cambodia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday. Former U.S. President Richard Nixon will visit Korea for two days April 7-8 as part of an Asian tour and is expected to meet with President Kim Yong-sam and former President No Tae-u, the spokesman added.

National Assembly Speaker To Resign

SK2403052993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0217 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—Rep. Pak Chun-kyu, who has been the target of public outrage following disclosure of his personal assets, indicated Wednesday that he will resign as speaker of the National Assembly. "Since I have responsibility as the speaker, I will ask the will of the assembly when it convenes an extraordinary session," Pak said in a statement released through his aide, Ku Chang-nim. "I will not cling to my job," Pak said. "I'm prepared." But Ku said that Pak had made no mention of his position as a representative.

Under the current law on the National Assembly, the speaker can submit his resignation before he asks the will of the nation's unicameral legislature. Pak's resignation, therefore, could come at the extraordinary session expected to be called in late April, through a vote on whether to accept it after he expresses his intention to resign in a speech.

His resignation is expected to have a considerable influence on other lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] who came under public criticism and scorn following the disclosure of personal assets by all 161 lawmakers of the DLP on Monday. Pak was reported Wednesday to have sent a letter to DLP executive chairman Kim Chong-pil proposing the formation of a special committee in the ruling party to give all DLP lawmakers a chance to explain or clarify their positions on their assets.

Poll Gives Kim 70.9 Percent Approval Rating

SK2403055393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0325 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam's administration is seen in a positive light 25 days after his inauguration, and the public gives it highest marks for opening Chongwadae and Mt. Inwang near it, banishing corruption and undertaking a series of reforms, the Korea Survey Poll Ltd. (Gallup) said Wednesday. In a poll commissioned by Chongwadae, Korea survey questioned 1,500 people aged over 20 on March 18-21. Asked to rate the administration, 70.9 percent said it was "doing well," 7.1 percent said "doing badly," 13.9 percent replied "so-so" and 8.3 percent said "don't know."

Compared with their expectations, 39.3 percent said "better than expected," 8.5 percent said "below the expectation," 41 percent replied "just as expected" and 11.2 percent said "don't know" or refused to comment. Asked what Kim had done right, 22 percent said opening Chongwadae and Mt. Inwang and the removal of "safe houses," 21.3 percent listed his war on corruption, followed by opening assets of public officials (12.7 percent), his choices for high officials (5.6 percent) and refusing political donations (4.2 percent).

Asked what he had done wrong, 15.4 percent listed his choices of high officials and 5.8 percent said price instability, followed by delaying real-name financial transactions (4.5 percent), lack of credibility in the declarations of high officials (2.5 percent) and unsatisfactory plans to solve rural problems (2.4 percent). On the scope of the reforms, 53.7 percent said "wider than expected," 10.9 percent replied "narrower than expected" and 23.8 percent said "just as expected." On the pace of the reforms, 41.2 percent said "faster than expected," 9.8 percent said "slower than expected" and 40.3 percent said "appropriate."

On tasks to be tackled, 19.9 percent cited economic recovery, 18.5 percent referred to price stabilization, followed by weeding out corruption (13.9 percent), solving rural problems (10.3 percent) and narrowing the gap between rich and poor (5.1 percent). On implementation of real-name financial deals, 46.4 percent suggested doing it "gradually," 39.1 percent proposed adopting it "at an early date" and 1.5 percent "opposed it."

On Kim's character, 76.2 percent said he was "resolute," 73.8 percent called him "credible" and 78.4 percent said he "listened to opinions." Kim's Democratic Liberal Party enjoyed support from 58.8 percent of the respondents, compared with opposition Democratic Party's 17.6 percent, New Political Reform Party's 4.1 percent and United People's Party's 0.4 percent.

Security Agency Plans Personnel Cuts, Reshuffle

SK2403100293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0918 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) has worked out a plan to cut back its organization and would shortly effect a sweeping reshuffle affecting about 40 senior staffs including its entire bureau-director-level officials, it was learned on Wednesday. A government official said the reorganization plan features the discontinuation of a bureau in the domestic intelligence area, and the merger of two overseas and another two management bureaus into one each.

Also under the reorganization, the existing four assistant directors slots would be abolished and the number of its local offices reduced from the existing 22 to six. NSP Director Kim Tok reported the plan to President Kim Yong-sam and obtained the president's green signal at Chongwadae [presidential offices] Wednesday afternoon, the official said.

Government To Allow Expelled Students To Resume Studies

SK2403085793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—Students who were expelled by their universities for their involvement in anti-government activities or campus disputes between 1988 and 1992 will be allowed to resume their studies under an agreement between the government and ruling Democratic Liberal Party on Wednesday. It was decided that the universities should be encouraged to reinstate the students in the current semester for campus peace and national unity, and the Education Ministry will ask the cabinet to amend related laws at a meeting Thursday to allow their reinstatement.

Among those who may be going back to their classrooms soon is Yim Su-kyong, expelled by Hanguk University of Foreign Studies for visiting North Korea. Yim was released last month in a parole after serving part of a prison sentence for the illegal trip. Which students are reinstated will be decided by the colleges and universities concerned, Education Ministry officials said. During the period, a total of 85,156 students were expelled from 132 colleges and universities for various reasons. Of them, 2,000 were activists.

5-Year Economic Development Plan Expected by June

SK2403053793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0258 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—The government will work out a five-year plan, coinciding with President Kim Yong-sam's term in office, to revitalize the Korean economy by the end of June. Briefing Kim on the Economic Planning Board's programs for this year at Chongwadae, Economic Planning Minister Yi Kyong-sik said on Wednesday that he envisaged a five-year plan that contained administrative, financial, tax and moral reforms.

In the plan, Yi said, the government would formulate a new development strategy, expand the growth potential of the economy, improve the quality of life for the people and promote the international standing of the economy. To stabilize consumer prices, as envisioned under the 100-day economic stimulus package recently announced, prices of 20 basic necessities will be placed under special control and public utility charges will be frozen at their present levels until year-end.

In international trade relations, efforts will be made to solve pending issues with the United States and boost mutual investment and technological cooperation with that country. With Japan, a long-term technological cooperation plan will be sought, and with China, cooperation in investment and trade will be promoted in a mutually complementary manner. Inter-Korean trade will be shifted from indirect to direct trade, though settlement of the North Korean nuclear issue is a prerequisite.

To prepare for admission to the organization for economic cooperation and development, the Economic Planning Board will form a study team. To ensure fair trade, inter-company deals within large business groups will be probed during the first half of the year, while rules and systems standing in the way of fair market competition will be repealed.

After the briefing, President Kim instructed Minister Yi to control prices of basic daily necessities so that the low-income brackets d d not suffer more and noted that the economy must be revitalized through everybody sharing the pain this year. He said the government should work out a medium-term financial reform plan to correct the imbalance of financial power, noting that this was one of the major policy goals of his administration. The government should seek the understanding and cooperation of the public in making and carrying out any economic policy. This required policymakers to meet people who were interested in new policy, Kim said.

Kim Orders DLP 'In-House' Investigation

SK2403054593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam has ordered his Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] to conduct a thorough in-house investigation into those of its lawmakers now the targets of public resentment for suspected real estate speculation and tax evasion, senior presidential secretary for political affairs Chu Ton-sik said Wednesday. Kim also ordered his party to take measures acceptable by the public against those lawmakers if wrongdoings were found, Chu said.

On Kim's orders, the DLP will encourage lawmakers to resign from their National Assembly or party posts if they are found to have broken the law, or, to leave the party on their own, informed party sources said. After being briefed on the public criticism surrounding disclosures of DLP lawmakers' assets by chief presidential secretary Pak Kwan-yong and Chu, Kim instructed the ruling party to unmask the problems caused by those lawmakers suspected of land speculation and tax dodging. "As the DLP's leader, I feel sorry that the assets of some of the party's lawmakers have drawn public distrust," Kim said, adding instructions for measures to satisfy the public.

Chu visited DLP headquarters to deliver Kim's instructions to party executive chairman Kim Chong-pil and urged a proper investigation to discover the real facts concerning the wealth declared by DLP lawmakers. Everyone who broke the law would be subject to the penalties prescribed by the law, Chu said. Presidential chief-of-staff Pak also hinted that assets would be taken into account in the nomination of candidates for the next general elections, saying that politicians had to pay for their wrongdoings.

DLP Names Three By-Election Candidates

SK2403012593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0050 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] decided Wednesday to name its candidates for three by-elections. They are Son Hak-kyu, a professor at Sokang University, for Kwangmyong, Pak Chong-ung, a presidential secretary for petition and information, for Saha in Pusan, and Kang Kyong-sik, a former finance minister, for Tongrae-a in Pusan.

The three seats have been vacant for reasons of death, the appointment of the occupant to chief presidential secretary and criminal conviction of the occupant. The DLP will finalize the candidates after obtaining approval from party President Kim Yong-sam and reorganize the local chapters in preparation for the elections.

DLP Launches Probe of Party Members' Wealth

SK2403083493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 23 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has launched a probe into some of its lawmakers who have become targets of public suspicion because of their wealth, party officials said Wednesday. The party will recommend resignation from public office for those who are found to have hidden assets or speculated in real estate to accumulate wealth. Lawmakers who refuse to resign when asked will be expelled from the party.

President Kim Yong-sam, who is also party president, has instructed the DLP to pursue and clear up suspicions over the processes by which the DLP lawmakers acquired their wealth. Prime targets of the party's investigation of its own lawmakers are Pak Chun-kyu, speaker of the National Assembly, and Yu Hak-song and Kim Mun-ki, party sources said.

It was not immediately clear, however, if the party was urging Pak to give up his seat in the National Assembly as well. The DLP would form a special body within the party at an early date to undertake its investigation, the sources said. "Members of the National Assembly have to be honest and clean because they are the ones who make the laws, oversee the administration and deliberate the nation's budgets," said Choe Hyong-u, DLP secretary-general. "If they have done something that is regarded by the people as unacceptable, then they should submit to the judgement of the people."

Choe urged all lawmakers embroiled in the controversy to make up their own minds and leave their public offices voluntarily. "How can anyone represent the people in the National Assembly when he has lost the confidence of his people?" Choe asked rhetorically.

In addition to the three, the party is expected to investigate at least 10 other lawmakers, including Kim Chae-sun, Kum Chin-ho, Kang U-hyok, Na Ung-pae, Yi Won-cho and Chong Ho-yong, who are under suspicion of having speculated in real estate while holding public office. Nine other lawmakers, including Kim Chin-chae, Chong Chae-mun, Kim In-yong and Yi Myong-pak, are expected to be called upon to clarify their enormous real estate holdings, the sources said.

Democratic Party Members To Make Public Assets

SK2403084193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0651 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party [DP] decided Thursday to make the assets of over 100 key party members, including supreme council members and lawmakers, public on April 6. In particular, it resolved to value real estate at current market prices and describe how and when it was purchased.

Evaluation of real estate sparked a nationwide outcry and resulted in the possibility of purges when lawmakers and senior party members of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party made their assets public Monday. The decision was made by the supreme council at a meeting in the morning. Accordingly, the DP will form an ad hoc committee and finalize concrete criteria for making assets public on March 30 at a joint party post-holders and lawmakers meeting.

The committee will have two subcommittees, including a fact-finding subcommittee that is expected to conduct in-depth probes into the assets of not only DP lawmakers and senior post-holders but those of members of the ruling party. The DP is scheduled to accept the registration of assets from lawmakers and senior post-holders from March 31 through April 5 and to make them public on April 6.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

King Approves End of Rulers' Prosecution Immunity

BK2303141693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 23 (AFP)—Malaysian King Azlan Shah has approved the end of immunity from prosecution for the country's nine hereditary rulers, including himself, the government announced Tuesday [23 March]. Azlan signed and returned to parliament Monday a bill passed by the Senate to amend the Constitution and remove the immunity enjoyed for more than three decades by the rulers, BERNAMA news agency reported.

"The bill will be gazetted as soon possible," the agency quoted parliament speaker Mohamad Zahir Ismail as saying.

The new law will require the nine sultans and rajas, who take turns every five years to become king, to abdicate if jailed for more than a day for any offence. Officials said that Azlan's assent to the bill had officially ended Malaysia's worst constitutional crisis brought on by the government's pushing ahead with the proposed law despite opposition from the rulers.

Legal experts had earlier speculated that the rulers might challenge the bill in court as their consent was required for the bill to become law.

The move to rein in the sultans and rajas, who had reportedly tested the government's patience for years with their misdemeanors, was triggered by the alleged beating of a field hockey coach by the sultan of southern Johore state, Mahmood Iskandar, last November. Iskandar's action sparked unprecedented public outrage against the royalty and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad seized the opportunity to end the legal immunity of the monarchs.

The Conference of Rulers, which represents the nine sultans and rajas, outrightly rejected the constitutional amendments when they were first passed by parliament in January. It, however, accepted them with certain modifications when they were retabled in early March, after the government retaliated by abolishing many perks and luxuries enjoyed by the rulers.

Japan May Grant 'Exceptional' Post-ODA Loans

OW1903142693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1355 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 19 KYODO—Japan may give Malaysia "exceptional" loans limited to certain applications such as environmental conservation, once Malaysia becomes ineligible for low-interest yen credits under Japan's official development assistance (ODA) scheme, a Japanese official said Friday [19 March].

"We have had long, friendly relations with Malaysia. From that viewpoint, we will try to make some exception for Malaysia," Kiyoshi Mikanagi, head of a Japanese delegation, told a news conference following the end of the first round of negotiations on future Japanese ODA to Malaysia.

Mikanagi declined to say what fields might be allowed under the special post-ODA loans, but Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the day before he hoped they would include infrastructural development and small and mid-sized industries. Senior government officials from the two countries held the negotiations to work out the direction of future Japanese ODA to Malaysia, where per-capita income will soon surpass the cutoff point for concessionary loans.

Malaysia wants Japan to continue providing the yen loans, which have been used mainly for infrastructural development, and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, during his visit to Malaysia early this year, promised to find a solution. The 18-member delegation headed by Mikanagi, special assistant to Japan's Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, was to follow up on that promise.

Japan currently provides special loans to countries such as Brazil and Mexico which no longer qualify for ODA, but these loans are granted solely for environmental conservation purposes.

Rapid development, spurred mainly by Japanese investment, has pushed Malaysia's per-capita income to near the 2,550 dollar ceiling for ODA, which also includes technical cooperation.

Commentary Urges Reaching Economic Potential

BK2303120093 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] East Asian countries have a nice day for them. Even without a formal (?reasonable) arrangement, it has attracted much attention to its dynamic growth. Many of world's businesses are aware of this. That is why many have taken the initiative to move their operations to East Asia. And in such a scenario, it comes as a surprise to note that East Asian countries have yet to forge significant economic ties among themselves.

For example, Malaysia's trade and economic linkages with China have not been fully realized despite China tipped to be a booming market. Trade with South Korea has slowed down due to the recession in Korea. This is indeed a worrying situation as it shows that the region's countries are not doing enough to boost regional trade.

This defies the existing realities, for no other region in the world can match the projected business opportunities of East Asia.

For instance, each of the 30 leading exporting and importing countries in the world are from the region, including Malaysia and China. Together these economies account for 17.5 percent of world exports and 17 percent of imports.

The newest stumbling block could be the imbalance of an economic development among member countries. As such, their economic interest has one aspect of mutual support and another of mutual constraint and competition with each other. Another factor would be the insistence by certain countries to continue to rely on traditional markets such as North America and Europe. The clear message for all East Asian countries is to reexamine the vast potential the region holds for them. If they really do not work towards reaping the region's many economic benefits, outside countries would do so. This being the case, the ball is at their feet to further stimulate intraregional trade. To this end, it is imperative for developing countries of the region to marshal their collective strength. This clearly spells out the need for an East Asian Economic Caucus, EAEC. Among other things, it could look to ways to speed up East Asia's economic development. Obviously, the underlining cut would be the principle of mutual benefit, equality and common prosperity. Long at different stages of economic development, it would no doubt take time and efforts for countries to come closer together. Besides this, as a loose consultative forum, it could also facilitate the building of bridges with other regional groupings. This ties in neatly with the principles of free trade éxalted under the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade, GATT—that East Asia has the potential to prove to be the other stimulating factor to promote free global trade besides GATT.

Other than competing with each other, East Asian countries need to realize the tremendous benefits of competing with one another. If it really continues to grow at a rate it achieved in the 1980s, it could overtake Western Europe by the year 2005 and the North American Free Trade Area, NAFTA, by the year 2022. They would be then to be able to draw upon their whole inherent strength to forge ahead in international economic arena.

As a collective force, countries big or small can come out loud in exhorting and practising the principles of free trade. It can also be a significant departure from the West which only pays its lip service to free trade.

There is so much to gain by East Asian countries. But only if they fully exploit their collective potential.

Paper Publishes Military Appointees' Biographies

BK2303074193 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 24 Feb 93 p 4

[By Abdul Aziz Ishak]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 23 February—Army Chief General Datuk Sri Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid was today officially installed as the new chief of the Malaysian Defense Forces [ATM] in a reshuffle that had affected 13 senior military officers. The appointment of Gen. Rahman, 54, will take effect on 3 March after he formally takes the post from Gen. Tan Sri Yaakob Mohamed Zain, 58, at a ceremony at the Defense Ministry here. The announcement issued by the Defense Ministry on the military officers' reshuffle had occupied the front page of the afternoon edition of yesterday's UTUSAN MALAYSIA.

Major General Datuk Abdul Ghani Tan Sri Abdul Aziz, deputy commander of the Royal Malaysian Air Force [TUDM], was installed as the new chief of TUDM, replacing Lieutenant General Datuk Sri Mohamed Yunus Tasi, who will begin his vacation on 19 March before his retirement in August. Maj. Gen. Abdul Ghani, 48, will be promoted to lieutenant general.

The post of new army chief will be assumed by the present deputy chief of army, Lt. Gen. Datuk Borhan Ahmad, 53, who will also be promoted to full general. His post will be filled by Maj. Gen. Datuk Abdul Manap Ibrahim, commander of the First Army Division, who will be promoted to lieutenant general.

The appointment of Maj. Gen. Abdul Manap, 53, who once led a peacekeeping mission in Namibia, has attracted the attention of observers. This is because several other officers, including those who are more senior than he is, were earlier tipped to assume this post.

What is also interesting is the appointment of Brigadier General Datuk Fauzi Hussein, the 53-year-old commander of the Air Force Support Division, as TUDM deputy chief. He will also be promoted to major general.

The apointment of Brig. Gen. Datuk Alias Lafti Tan Sri Haji Hussein, assistant to the army chief for operations, as commander of the Second Division (Strategic affairs) has also attracted attention. Brig. Gen. Alias' appointment is aimed at filling up the vacuum following the appointment of Maj. Gen. Ghani Abdullah as commander of the First Division effective 7 March. Brig. Gen. Alias is a senior officer responsible for the dispatch of Malaysian troops to Cambodia.

The reshuffle this time also witnessed the promotion of several senior army officers. Colonel Amir Baharuddin will be promoted to brigadier general and assume the post of the 10th Brigade effective 7 March. Lieutenant Colonel Pa Wan Chik Hashim will be promoted to a colonel at the Army Department for Training effective 7 March. Lt. Col. Abdul Aziz Zainal will be promoted to be director of the Civil Servants Management School, while Lt Col. Abdul Rahman Jabil will be promoted to be deputy commander of the Sixth Brigade.

As was reported earlier, the reshuffle does not affect officers of the Royal Malaysian navy.

All these appointments have been approved by the Paramount Ruler in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the ATM folowing the ATM Council's recommendation.

Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said last Friday that the reshuffle announcement would be made before 3 March.

It is understood that today's reshuffle is only the first phase of a series of reshuffle because several other military officers with the rank of major generals and lieutenant generals will retire this year. "Another reshuffle annoucement will be made in the middle of this year," one senior officer said. Background of those in charge of the Malaysian Defense Forces:

Gen. Datuk Sri Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid creates history because he is the first graduate of the Royal Military College to become chief of ATM effective 3 March. He was born in Ipoh, Perak, on 11 November 1938. He was commissioned as junior lieutenant into the Royal Malay Regiment on 14 December 1958. He was installed as army chief on 11 April 1992. Some of the posts he had assumed are: Rentah [expansion unknown] officer (1970-72); defense attache in the Philippines (1975-76); commander of the Fourth Brigade (January-October 1981); deputy chief of staff for defense intelligence (1981-85); chief of staff for Kementah [expansion unknown] Operations (1985-86), commander of the Second Division (1987-90), and chief of staff of ATM Headquarters (1990-92).

During his military service, Gen. Rahman attended various military courses in Malaysia and overseas, including that in the United Kingdom in 1969 and another one called: "Senior International Defense Management" in the United States in 1984.

Lt. Gen. Datuk Borhan Ahmad was commissioned as junior lieutenant on 13 December 1959. He was born on 12 December 1939 in Pasir Mas, Kelantan. He was installed as deputy chief of army on 11 April 1992 after serving as commander of the Army Corps from 16 June 1990 to 10 April 1992. Before that, he was commander of the Fourth Division for three years. He once served as commander of the elite Special Regiment. During his military service, he also served as defense attache in Vietnam in 1975 and in Pakistan from 1 January 1976 to 28 February 1978. He also attended various military courses in the United States, Australia, and India (from 12 January 1970 to 21 November 1970) as well as the National Defense College in India from 3 January 1986 to 10 January 1987.

Maj. Gen. Datuk Abdul Ghani Tan Sri Abdul Aziz is the new commander of the Royal Malaysian Air Force effective 19 March 1993. Born in Alor Setar, Kedah, on 7 November 1944, he began his career at the Air Force on 13 September 1964. He assumed the post of the deputy commander on 1 December 1991 after serving as commander of the Air Force Defense Force from 18 December 1990 to 30 November 1991. He attended the Royal College for Defense Studies in the United Kingdom from 18 November to 12 December 1991. Maj. Gen. Abdul Ghani has also been appointed to lead a special committee in charge of studying the ability and performance of the Russian-made MiG-29 planes because Malaysia plans to buy these aircraft.

Maj. Gen. Datuk Abdul Manap Ibrahim will be the new deputy chief of army effective 3 March 1993. Born in Kuala Kangsar, Perak, on 13 May 1939, he was commissioned as junior lieutement on 9 December 1961. He served as defense attache in Indonesia, director of Army Infantry, and commander of RASCOM [Rajang Area Security Command in Sarawak Third Division]. He also led the Malaysian forces in the peacekeeping mission in Namibia.

Brig. Gen. Datuk Fauzi Hussein will serve as deputy commander of the Royal Malaysian Air Force effective 19 March. Born in Kota Baharu, Kelantan, on 5 January 1940, he has served in the Air Force for 32 years.

Brig. Gen. Datuk Mohamed Alias Lafti Tan Sri Hussein will serve as commander of the Second Division (strategic affairs) effective 7 March 1993. Born in Teluk Intan, Perak, he was commissioned in the army on 8 December 1962. Brig. Gen. Alias was also responsible in the dispatch of Malaysian troops to Cambodia to serve in the UN peacekeeping force.

Sabah Assemblymen Join UMNO, 9 To Follow

BK2403092093 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 20 Mar 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] Petaling Jaya, Friday—Sabah UMNO [United Malays National Organization] will become stronger following the admission of two of the 11 USNO [United Sabah National Organization] state assemblymen.

Tun Datu Mustapha Harun, deputy liaison officer of the Sabah UMNO, is now confident that the nine others will do so in a day or two.

He said he based his confidence on a consensus reached during a meeting with USNO state assemblymen here yesterday.

"During the meeting, eight state assemblymen said that they would join UMNO if the anti-hopping law barring them from so doing was declared null and void.

"I hold to the consensus and Sabah UMNO is consistently waiting for them with open arms," he said at his residence here.

The eight USNO state assemblymen, who were present during the meeting, were USNO President Datuk Amir Kahar Tun Mustapha (Banggi), Haji Mohamed Noor (Sulaman), Karim Bujang (Bongawan), Nasir Tan Sri Sakaran (Sulabayan), Dayang Mahani Tun Pengiran Ahmad Raffae (Lumadan), Aklee Abbas (Sukau), Mohamed Said Senang (Merotai), and Datu Ismail Datu Jook (Balung).

The three absent state assemblymen were Askalani Abdul Rahim (Lahad Datu), Salim Bacho (Kunak), and Piting Mohamed Ali (Sekong).

The meeting was also attended by three UMNO leaders—Deputy President Ghafar Baba, Secretary General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, and Datu Mustapha himself.

Yesterday, the Supreme Court declared that Sabah's anti-hopping law passed on 20 May 1986 contravened the federal constitution and was, therefore, null and void.

On rumors that the Sabah United Party [PBS] has persuaded USNO to join it in establishing a coalition government in the state, Datu Mustapha said that the attempt was a PBS tactic to "kill" Sabah UMNO's struggle.

He said that PBS was resorting to money politics by offering various sufficient rewards to influence the 11 USNO state assemblymen.

Datu Mustapha also said that the efforts by PBS to persuade USNO to join a coalition government was a tactic to continue to fan anti-federal sentiments among the people in the state.

In addition, the efforts are related to the PBS Government's intention to pull Sabah out of Malaysia.

Singapore

Thai Premier Seeks Economic Cooperation

BK2303125993 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Summary] The Thai prime minister, Mr. Chuan Likphai, says his country wants to play a more active role in ASEAN by expanding networks of economic cooperation. Attached to his task is the conferring of Bangkok International Banking Facility, or BIBF, licenses last week to nearly 60 Thai and foreign banks. Mr. Chuan said the scheme will help liberalize Thailand's financial system and mobilize funds for economic development. He was speaking at a lunch organized by the Trade Development Board and the Singapore Manufacturers' Association.

Singapore and Thailand are looking toward further expansion of their financial markets with the scheme. The Thai finance minister, Mr. Tharin, said the two countries will grant new offshore banking facilities to each other. Two more Thai banks are to open branches here.

In Thailand, Singapore's DBS [Development Bank of Singapore] and OCBC [Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation] have received licenses to operate offshore banking units. Discussions are going on with the UOB [United Overseas Bank] and ODB [Overseas Development Bank] to join the scheme. With the licenses, the banks will get customers and have the right to conduct a range of trading facilities.

The Economic Development Board [EDB] will play a role in facilitating the creation of a committee to study business cooperation with Thailand. Speaking after a Thai-Singapore roundtable discussion, the EDB managing director, Mr. Tan Chin Nam, said some areas of possible joint venture include (?infrastructural) and construction development. He said a Singapore business team will visit Thailand for further talks. About 500 businessmen attended the dicussion this afternoon.

Businessmen To Jointly Explore 3d-Country Ventures

BK2303144693 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Businessmen from Singapore and Thailand have agreed to form a joint business group to explore the possibility of business ventures in third countries. This follows the roundtable discussion between business leaders from both sides. The visiting Thai prime minister revealed this at a news conference today. Mr. Chuan Likphai said Singapore and Thailand had agreed to make good use of their resources in joint ventures in Southeast Asia and southern China. Both countries could benefit from maximizing investment opportunities in these countries.

Earlier, Mr. Chuan held talks with the senior minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. Mr. Chuan leaves for Manila tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Chuan Speaks to Businessmen

BK2303152793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, who is on an official visit to Singapore, today made a speech at a luncheon hosted in his honor by the Trade Development Board and the Singapore Manufacturers' Association.

The prime minister said since Thailand is enjoying a high economic growth rate, especially with its exports this year increasing by 14.9 percent over last year, this should serve as a positive factor to stimulate bigger investment in Thailand. He said his government adopted a policy to improve the basic structure of import taxation, diversify development to rural areas, and promote environment protection. He said that the basic infrastructure to serve the expansion of investment in projects such as the construction of communications, transportation, and telecommunications systems, is expected to be completed in 1999. He said this will benefit the expansion of the economic network into the Indochinese countries. The prime minister also emphasized to the Singapore businessmen that Thailand is trying to adjust its economic development in keeping

with the ASEAN Free Trade Area, or AFTA, and this, he said, will benefit Thailand's future economic system as well as that in other countries in the region.

Thai Leaders Answer Questions on Cambodian Issue

BK2403080493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 24 Mar 93 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his delegation held a press conference in Singapore last night which was attended by a large number of foreign journalists. The journalists were particularly interested in the Cambodian problem as Thailand has played a vital role in efforts to solve this problem.

After the press conference, Government Spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa briefed Thai correspondents on Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri's answers to the foreign journalists' questions concerning the Cambodian problem. He said that all countries are concerned with the situation in Cambodia after the upcoming general election. The foreign minister had told the journalists that he had met with the UN secretary general in the United States recently. Prasong briefed the Singapore side on the results of the meeting. ASEAN's stand on this issue is that there must be further talks to restore peace in Cambodia. The UN secretary general will visit Thailand, Vietnam, and Phnom Penh between 8 to 11 April. The UN secretary general will meet with the foreign minister again to discuss the restoring of peace in Cambodia.

Prime Minister Chuan told the press conference that he had learnt from newspapers that foreign journalists were interested in the Cambodian problem. The Foreign Ministry and the Supreme National Council of Cambodia have reported that Thailand has been quite strict in implementing the closing of the Thai-Cambodian border. The smuggling of timber from Cambodia is not under Thailand's control. There are a large number of sawmills in Cambodia. It is also difficult to smuggle processed wood from Cambodia because there are dense forests along the border.

Joint Committee To Identify Opportunities in SRV

BK2303111793 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 21 Mar 93 p 21

[By Sandra Pearce]

[Text] Singapore has set up a joint committee with Vietnam comprising statutory boards and local and multinational companies to identify business and infrastructural development opportunities in Vietnam.

The move is part of the Singapore Government's efforts to help public-sector agencies and local enterprises venture overseas in line with the thrust of the Strategic Economic Plan [SEP].

This was disclosed yesterday by the Ministry of Trade and Industry [MTI] at a briefing which gave a progress report on the SEP.

The SEP was drawn up in 1991 to propel the economy towards developed country status.

Singapore Infrastructure Inc. as the committee is called will identify projects which the private sector can take part in either through joint ventures with foreign counterparts or with the public sector.

The public-sector agencies involved are Jurong Town Corporation, Port of Singapore Authority, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, Public Utilities Board, Singapore Telecom, and Public Works Department.

The Economic Development Board is the lead agency for the committee.

The idea for the committee was mooted during Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew's visit to Vietnam in April last year, MTI said. Further details about the committee will be announced in May this year.

In the briefing yesterday, MTI said the Singapore economy was on course towards achieving its target of becoming a developed country in the next 20 to 30 years.

To achieve this, Singapore's per capita Gross National Product (GNP) needs to grow by between 4.4 percent and 5.4 percent each year in 1990-95.

With the per capita GNP growth at an annual rate of 4.3 percent from 1990 to 1992, Singapore was "roughly on track far," the MTI spokesman said.

MTI has outlined two broad strategies under the SEP:

The first strategy is to enhance the economy's competitiveness by improving the skills and education level of the labour force through training programmes.

In addition, the government has set up the International Manpower Programme attract talented people from India, the United Kingdom, Eastern Europe to Singapore.

The SEP has also identified lead agencies—statutory boards responsible for various sectoral developments—to develop the economy's "core capabilities" in key industries.

The second thrust aims to encourage local enterprises to expand internationally.

The SEP progress report said Singapore was still lagging behind developed countries in terms of overseas ventures.

For example, direct overseas investments by European countries like the Netherlands and Switzerland accounted for a third of their GNP compared with Singapore's 11 percent.

To promote overseas expansion, MTI and the Ministry of Labour also introduced a regionalisation training scheme recently to enable companies with regional operations to bring their foreign workers into the republic for training.

Joint-Venture Firm Wins PRC Offshore Contract

BK2403111793 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 22 Mar 93 p 1

[From the daily insert "The Shipping Times"]

[Text] Singapore—History repeats itself. For Sembawang Engineering Pte Ltd, it took less than three months.

In a statement over the weekend, Sembawang Fngineering said it has clinched a second offshore hook-up and commissioning contract. The first one, secured in December, was completed three weeks ago.

The new contract, like the first one, was won through the company's joint venture in China, Chiwan Offshore Petroleum Equipment Repair and Manufacture Co Ltd.

Once again, the contract was awarded by JHN Oil Operating Company, a Japanese-Chinese joint venture. Both contracts involve the hook-up and mechanical completion of a drilling and production platform that will be deployed in JHN's Lufeng 13-1 field in the South China Sea.

However, there are two differences. One, the second contract—called Milestone-3—is worth US$3.8 million (S$6.3 million), more than double that of Milestone-2 which fetched US$ 1.8 million.

Two, the project management team for Milestone-3 is now working on a "live" platform, that is, where drilling operations is in progress. So, the team must plan its hookup and commissioning tasks around the drilling work.

In the statement, Sembawang Engineering said it won the Milestone-3 contract after it completed Milestone-2 two days ahead of schedule. Work on the new job started last week and is expected to be completed in July.

Milestone-3 is the final hook-up and commissioning phase to prepare the platform for crude oil production in August. In an earlier report, Sembawang Engineering executive chairman Cheong Quee Wah said: "Hook-up and commissioning is a new area for SEPL. It completes our range of services and enables us to offer a turnkey package to the oil and gas industry."

The two contracts also represent the company's increased presence in the Chinese market as part of the Sembawang Group's overseas expansion. Sembawang Engineering recently completed the construction of a $40-million offshore production platform for China's Nanhai West Oil Corporation.

Chiwan Offshore is a joint venture Sembawang Engineering formed with Nanhai East Oil Corp, Nanhai West Oil Corp and Chiwan Petroleum Supply Base some six months ago. Sembawang Engineering has a 35-per-cent stake in the venture, which has a paid-up capital of US$1 million.

The venture is based in Chiwan, within the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone of China. It has a permanent management and supervisory staff of 20, comprising both Singaporean and Chinese nationals.

Cambodia

Ranariddh Pledges Participation in UN Elections

BK2303143093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Ampil, Cambodia, March 23 (AFP)—The head of Cambodia's main opposition party, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], said in this zone he controls Tuesday that he fully intends to participate in U.N.-run elections in May, despite advice and rumors to the contrary.

"There is no doubt FUNCINPEC is going to run in upcoming elections despite rumors mentioned by" U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi, said party leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Some of his advisors had suggested pulling out of the election as acts of political violence continue throughout the country and the neutral political environment needed to hold the election remains an elusive goal, FUNCINPEC sources said.

But the prince left open the possibility that his father, the mercurial Prince Norodom Sihanouk, could change his mind and urge FUNCINPEC to pull out after all.

In that case, FUNCINPEC "will consider it," Prince Ranariddh said, "but I don't believe he will change his mind."

Nonetheless, Akashi said his trip to the northwest resistance zone satisfied him.

"I think all the doubts which any of us may have had have been completely wiped out and evaporated," Akashi said.

The UNTAC chief also said he wanted to allow FUNCINPEC to be able to fly a small plane around Cambodia during the campaign season, but that the Phnom Penh government had raised reasonable questions about providing navagational support.

He said he was discussing the issue with Phnom Penh officials.

The first test of a newly leased FUNCINPEC Airways plane failed miserably when two Cambodian pilots crashed the single-engine 14-passenger TB-10 plane at the brand new 1200 meter (yard) airstrip here, FUNCINPEC and U.N. officials said.

The plane ran off the end of the runway on February 23 and was completely destroyed, but the pilots were not seriously injured, they said.

U.N. officials said Belgian pilots would be contracted to fly FUNCINPEC planes in the future.

Article Critical of Sihanouk's Role Censured

BK2403022593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Mar 93 p 4

["Fax" from the cabinet of Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and president of the Supreme National Council, SNC, of Cambodia, published in the "Usually Reliable Sources," URS, section]

[Text] On reading your article "Walking in the Shadow of the Killing Fields" published in the Usually Reliable Source column of the BANGKOK POST dated 17 March 1993, we would like to make the following remarks: On Cambodia with her multifaceted political problems, you base yourself *on the opinions of only three people.*

We will be grateful to you if you can find evidence supporting your ill-timed evaluations on Somdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK.

As for us Cambodians who serve Him day and night to give to our Motherland the best we have, we see Him maintain a close and cordial working relationship with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], International Organizations, NGOs [nongovernmental organizations]... and with you, respectable newsmen and newswomen.

We can assure you that all His daily work is aiming at facilitating the UNTACs work in Cambodia and for the success of the latter. He is the only Cambodian Leader who is recognised and accepted by all Cambodian parties involved in the Peace Process. And this is *the key* or at least a key factor in the peaceful solution sought by the world community. With His best will and genuine love for His people, He never spares His efforts to do whatever He can for them, in particular, to assist and cooperate with UNTAC to have peace, independence, freedom and territorial integrity brought back to His beloved Homeland and her people. Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK's constructive role is clearly shown in the positive decisions obtained since the UNTAC's arrival in Cambodia.

Concerning the outcome of the upcoming elections in May 1993 by UNTAC, we can provide you document stating clearly that Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK will recognize the result. As for the "growing realisation" you mentioned in you work, we would like to have you check your file recording the meeting between then President George Bush and our Samdech, in New York, in October 1991. You should also do the same with your file to look up the idea behind the "scheme" you referred to in your article. Then, you will see that the idea is not new. It has been *publicly and consistently* announced by Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK since 1985. And during this last crucial time, He emphasizes that His "scheme" will become materialized only when the post-election period catastrophically worsens.... Finally, we are ready to assist you in your work to get an accurate picture of the political situation of Cambodia and of Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK's vital role in all this.

Sincerely Yours The Cabinet of Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK Head of State and President of the SNC of Cambodia

Government Spokesman Holds News Conference

BK2403063093 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] On the morning of 23 March, Khieu Kanharit, spokesman of the government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], gave a weekly news conference at Sakal I Hotel to national and international journalists in the presence of representatives of various embassies in Cambodia.

Speaking to the journalists, Khieu Kanharit corrected KAOH SANTEPHEAP newspaper's picture and report on the digging of a canal at the border between Takeo Province and Vietnam. He said: The canal was not in the conflicting area; it was actually the Vinh Te canal dug over 100 years ago; the conflicting area was at the border between Angkor Borei and Boreicholasa Districts and no canal has been dug; and all the problems involving this matter have already been settled.

Khieu Kanharit reported on the outcome of the talks between His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, SOC prime minister, and H.E. Akashi on the evening of 22 March. He said that the main point of the talks was to seek cooperation for more effective implementation of Paris peace agreement. In particular, it was aimed at seeking solution to the incidents in Prey Veng, Kompong Cham, and Takeo Provinces.

Khieu Kanharit stressed that all the conflicts in the three provinces were caused by lack of contact and mutual information between UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and local authorities. During the talks, H.E. Hun Sen raised three [as heard] important points. First, we do not object to UNTAC supervision whether UNTAC will do that with or without informing us beforehand because that is its mandate defined in Paris agreement. Second, in carrying out the supervision, UNTAC should pay attention to some points—that is, UNTAC should respect the honor of local authorities and local customs and traditions and should not ignore

or trample upon the honor and influence of local authorities. In its suprevision, UNTAC should avoid deploying its police personnel around provincial and district offices in each locality. Third, in the process of the Paris agreement and its supervision work, UNTAC should regard local authorities as its partner in the implementation. It should not regard local authorities as the accused or the suspect. Fourth, if UNTAC clings to such an incorrect attitude in its supervisory work by continuing to conduct criminal investigations as it has been doing, it should be held fully responsible for all the bad consequences which may arise.

Khieu Kanharit added that the SOC Government and UNTAC agreed to jointly ensure security during the elections. UNTAC is duty-bound to deploy its defense forces inside the polling centers and the SOC is to deploy its police and military forces for defense work outside the areas. At the same time, H.E. Akashi highly valued H.E. Hun Sen's visit to a number of provinces to advise local authorities to make every effort to defend the offices of various political parties.

Concerning the depreciation of riel currency, Khieu Kanharit said that the decline was caused by various factors, but not because of the economic plunge. He added that according to various news sources, this panic was caused by the Khmer Rouge and their allies. Their military setback has caused the SOC's prestige to soar. Thus they are trying to sabotage the economy. However, the government has taken some measures to stabilize the riel currency.

Vietnamese Said To Flee From Siem Reap

BK2403073893 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Mar (SPK)—Vietnamese nationals aboard 800 boats have been fleeing Cambodia's northwestern province of Siem Reap since the massacre of 33 Vietnamese fishermen two weeks ago, AFP quoted a Phnom Penh government spokesman as saying Tuesday.

Eight hundred boats carrying the Vietnamese families were leaving the Tonle Sap lake region in the south of the touristic town of Siem Reap near the temple of Angkor Wat, disclosed Government Spokesman Khieu Kanharit without elaborating on the number of the people involved.

Neither Khieu Kanharit nor the spokesman of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], who on 15 March already spoke about the departure of some dozens of Vietnamese fishermen living in the region, could indicate the destination of those Vietnamese.

Thirty three Vietnamese and a Cambodian were killed and 29 others were wounded near Siem Reap on the night of 10-11 March. Most of the victims were fishermen living in a floating village on the edge of Tonle Sap River.

Kanharit said more than 100,000 ethnic Vietnamese live in Cambodia, while the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, accused of the massacre by UNTAC, put the number at more than 2 million.

UNTAC, Vietnam Responsible for 'Aggression'

BK2403104193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Station editorial: "The Presence of Vietnamese Forces in Cambodia Remains the Biggest Problem Obstructing the Peace Process"]

[Text] From 1979 until the time of the Paris agreement, and since then, the issue of Vietnam's aggression against Cambodia remains the biggest problem and has become increasingly acute. There has been no change in the issue. The true nature of Vietnam's aggression against Cambodia remains the same. The only change is that Vietnamese troops' uniforms have been shed and now Vietnamese troops are hiding inside the puppet Army and the puppet administration and police to lead the puppets from top to bottom.

Furthermore, the Vietnamese aggressors, with the collusion of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] leaders, have introduced more Vietnamese nationals into Cambodia; there are over 2.4 million at present. These Vietnamese are used as an instrument of aggression and expansion to annex Cambodian territory. In provinces adjoining Vietnam's border, such as in Ratanakiri, Mondolkiri, Kratie, Stung Treng, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng Kandal, Takeo, Kampot, and Koh Kong Provinces, Vietnam has successively dispatched increasing numbers of Vietnamese nationals to Cambodia. In some areas, these Vietnamese represent 30, 40, even 80 percent of the Cambodian population.

In provinces further inside Cambodia, it is the same situation. Vietnamese have come to settle down in whole villages; some are mixed villages with Cambodian families. There are also entire Vietnamese villages with 200 or 300 families, and sometimes 500 families. Party chapters have been set up in these villages along with civilian state authorities; each household is armed, for example in the Tonle Sap Lake, along the Tonle Sap, Basak, and Mekong Rivers, and in Battambang, Kompong Chhnang, Pursat, and Phnom Penh.

It is these old and new Vietnamese that have been creating problems which fuel the war and cause insecurity, social problems, and political terrorism to murder the Cambodian people and members of various political parties.

Therefore, any incidents, big or small, military, political, or economic; political terrorist and fascist activities to murder the Cambodian people; and repression of demonstrations are the result of the collusion of UNTAC leaders, the Vietnamese aggressors, Vietnam's puppets, and bad elements who have not implemented the Paris

agreement but have instead implemented an altered accord to have only one party; that is, the puppet regime.

This is why these people have opposed any role for the Supreme National Council [SNC], opposed verification of the Vietnamese aggressor forces' withdrawal from Cambodia, and opposed the SNC's cooperation in controlling the five ministries because this will directly affect the election. UNTAC leaders and bad elements inside and outside UNTAC have been carrying out activities to cover up and to maintain all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia through every means. The Vietnamese and their puppets have been allowed to do what they like against the Cambodian nation and people. In such a situation, UNTAC leaders and bad elements inside and outside UNTAC have forced others to take part in the election to legitimize the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam and its puppets.

This is why the Cambodian nation and people inside and outside the country and the Cambodian national resistance forces clearly realize that Vietnam is a danger to the survival of the Cambodian nation, people, and race. Their view is to categorically oppose the election laws adopted by Akashi and bad elements inside and outside UNTAC to dupe the Cambodian people and to legitimize the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam and the puppets, and through this, to kill Cambodia's peace, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The Cambodian people are fixing their sight, without blinking, on the Vietnamese. They say that if the withdrawal of all types of Vietnamese from Cambodia is not settled, the Cambodian people will absolutely not accept this. Thus, the Cambodian problem is still a thorny one. UNTAC has not come to find peace for Cambodia but to fully, grossly, and shamelessly collude with the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppets despite other people's criticism, opposition, and advice. It has stubbornly persisted in successively defending the Vietnamese and their puppets.

That is why whenever there is an incident, Democratic Kampuchea [DK] is accused. Even if there is no incident, these people, including the one named Eric Falt, have insinuated in their deceitful propaganda that DK was to blame. Furthermore, even with clear evidence, and with everyone knowing that Vietnam and the puppets were the perpetrators, such as in the cases of hand grenade attacks and sucessive murders of members of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, UNTAC only lied to others saying that it would investigate. However, it only said this and then forgot about it.

Thus, the issue of Vietnam's aggression remains the biggest problem which has to be clearly settled. The Cambodian people will absolutely not accept it if this is not done. UNTAC, the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnam's puppets will have to bear full responsibility for past, present, and future problems.

China Criticized for Involvement With Khmer Rouge

BK2403105393 Phnom Penh KAOH SANTEPHEAP in Cambodian 19 Mar 93 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Cambodians Do Not Kneel Down Before Beijing"]

[Text] KAOH SANTEPHEAP has pinpointed the attitude of the Chinese Governments of all generations which have adamantly backed the Khmer Rouge [KR] faction of Khieu Samphan. In particular, the Cambodian people have unambiguously understood that China was considerably involved in the massacre of millions of Cambodian people in the "darkest" years of the Democratic Kampuchea regime.

More specifically, all activities carried out by the KR, who have "stubbornly" refused to take part in the UN-organized elections, are "initiated" and "ordered" by the Chinese Communist Party. As such, the world's perception that the KR leaders are only "figureheads" is absolutely correct.

When we returned to Phnom Penh in 1979, we saw many hundreds of telephone lines linking the Chinese Embassy with the genocide center in the Tuol Sleng penitentiary. This undeniably shows the Cambodian people that everything happening at the homicide center or any incarceration at the Pol Pot-Khieu Samphan Tuol Sleng prison was ordered by the Chinese Embassy.

More than three months ago, China voted against sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on the KR. Likewise, when the Phnom Penh faction launched an attack a month ago to prevent the KR from expanding territory, the Chinese Government protested and voiced its "concern" which was graver than the worry of Khieu Samphan himself.

China would only "calm down" and support the Cambodian nation if all Cambodians kneeled down before the Chinese and agreed to allow Khieu Samphan, Salot Sar [Pol Pot's real name], or their tiny group of henchmen to rule.

Come what may, no Cambodian wants to have, to hear about, or to see a regime which is the product of communist China. More resolutely, the Cambodian people "never want to have" anything that "follows in China's footsteps," or that is the "tools" of Beijing.

Writer Analyzes Political Violence

BK2303035793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Mar 93 p 4

[By Jacques Bekaert: "Cambodian Diary"]

[Text] Kompong Chhnang—On the front wall of the pagoda, a white and blue sign in Khmer and English marks the seat of the "Human Rights Vigilance of Cambodia." Human rights groups are not especially

popular with local authorities, and in many provinces they have to take refuge in Buddhist temples.

Only a few weeks ago, officials from the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) organised a gathering of citizens in one of Kompong Chhnang's temples. On the day of the elections you must come here and promise the Lord Buddha that you will vote for the CPP, one official told the crowd. And, he added, you know that you have to vote for the CPP because it is forbidden to lie to the Lord Buddha. But one of the monks later told the population that in such case, it would not be a sin to lie to the Buddha.

Political violence, meanwhile has declined considerably in this province. This, a senior UNTAC official said, was a clear indication that the recent killings of FUNCINPEC members and Buddhist Liberal Democrats [BLDP] were not part of a vendetta. "It was all planned and organised and directed from above," he said.

All members of the Supreme National Council (SNC) are guilty of gross abuses of human rights, noted several well-informed observers and Cambodian sources. "In zones controlled by the former resistance there is no real civil administration," one UNTAC human rights official noted. "Everything is in the hands of the military and people are executed almost everyday for a variety of reasons."

The CPP has realised that killing does not pay. It only brings condemnation from the international community. There are various means to convince the population that the only good vote, or the only safe vote, is a vote for the CPP.

UNTAC is engaged in a vast campaign to convince the population that the vote in May will be absolutely secret. Not only will the United Nations be in charge of the organisation, but hundreds of international observers will be on the spot. Ballot boxes will be sent to provincial capitals, where votecounting will take place.

CPP cadres are waging their own campaign. No, the vote will not be secret, they tell villagers. We have special cameras, we have satellites in the sky which can detect who you vote for. Since most Cambodians have been under strict control for the past 20 years or so, you cannot blame them for believing that, indeed, the CPP has the ways and means to know everything.

The Khmer Rouge are not interested in the elections. They have already declared that among the 4.7 million people who registered wit UNTAC, 1.3 million are Vietnamese. "The UNTAC-organised elections would only result in rubber stamping the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia," Khmer Rouge spokesman Mak Ben said [as published] the AFP a few weeks ago.

The Khmer Rouge believe that the CPP could get as much as 70 percent of the vote because "only Vietnamese settlers are eager to participate in the elections."

Leaders of the FUNCINPEC are now wondering what good it will do their party to take part in the elections. The Khmer Rouge advise them to ignore the vote since, in the words of a Khmer Rouge official, "it will not reflect the true desire of the Khmer people."

But the CPP leadership know that they need an absolute majority in order to guarantee the kind of constitution they wish for the country. This goal will probably elude them, so they are seeking allies among the smaller parties. In recent weeks CPP leaders have contacted at least a dozen of the minor political groups (20 parties are registered with UNTAC for the elections), including the BLDP of Mr Son Sann.

"The goal of the CPP is to deny the FUNCINPEC 30 percent of the vote, enough for the Sihanoukist faction to block the adoption of the new constitution and call on Prince Sihanouk to take over the country to break the deadlock," said one Phnom Penh based Western diplomat.

In a series of declarations issued from Peking, Prince Sihanouk explained that he supports the "UNTAC elections" and will stick to the Paris agreement. But he is also aware that the situation is likely to get worse in a few months.

"In this sad year 1993 it looks like I am not able to do much good for my people," the prince wrote in an "interview" dated 18 March, "because some of the factions are more determined than ever to fight, and to violate the Paris agreement, the fundamental rules of democracy, the spirit and some dispositions of the UNTAC electoral law, and human rights."

There are various reasons as to why Prince Sihanouk prefers to spend time away from Phnom Penh. "I don't want to assume responsibility for the very serious mistakes committed by others, Khmers and foreigners. I don't want to be responsible for the destruction of our forests, the pilfering of our natural resources ... the loss of territorial integrity ... the loss of our economic independence," he said.

If many Cambodians would indeed like to see Sihanouk spend more time in Cambodia, others believe that given the present circumstances, he should "stay away as much as possible from the existing mess," as one SOC official told us. "It is very important for us to see Prince Sihanouk remain above all factions," said another.

The prince seems to base his present strategy on a few simple facts: UNTAC will not be in Cambodia forever, election results will not satisfy all factions and some might refuse them. The elections will probably mark the end of the role of the SNC—a decision to be made by the secretary-general of the United Nations—and thus Sihanouk's own role as head of the SNC. "It is out of question that I should accept full powers from any factions, from anyone for that matter," Sihanouk wrote.

A previous proposal made by the prince, that of a national reconciliation government, has been firmly rejected by the CPP which does not want to see the Khmer Rouge in any future government. Sihanouk still believes that there is no "military solution" to the Khmer Rouge problem, and that they would be less dangerous in any future government than out of it.

If by the end of 1993 the situation in Cambodia deteriorates further, Sihanouk would consider a new "royal crusade" to "save the sinking Cambodian ship," he wrote from Peking. A crusade that's probably based on the people rather than on the political parties, to rebuild "a truly independent, neutral and nonaligned Cambodia, reunified, without any partition, and within the land and sea boundaries existing in 1969."

Unless there is a miracle after the May elections and party leaders decide to place national interests above their own, Prince Sihanouk will probably appear more indispensable than ever—not only to the Cambodians, but to most countries in the region.

Indonesia

Rudini: E. Timorese in Portugal Urged To Return

BK2303144593 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 9 Mar 93 p 5

[Excerpt] Dili, 9 Mar—Minister of Home Affairs Rudini said that if East Timorese who now reside in Portugal in misery wish to return to East Timor, they are welcome to do so because they are actually natives of East Timor who were born and brought up in East Timor Province. However, if they have now become citizens of Portugal after leaving East Timor, they must follow legal procedures in order to become Indonesian citizens.

Responding to newsmen following the appointment of Infantry Colonel Johannes Haribowo as the deputy governor of East Timor at the Local Legislative Council in Dili on Monday [8 March] morning, Minister Rudini said: "If they violated the Republic of Indonesia's laws when they were here, they will definitely have to go through legal procedure before they can become Indonesian citizens." Inf. Col. Haribowo is replacing Brigadier General Drs. [Master of Arts] A.B. Sarijo as the deputy governor of East Timor Province.

The meeting between Minister Rudini and newsmen was held at the governor's residence. He was accompanied by several staff from the Home Affairs Deparment and by the governor of East Timor, Abilio Jose Osorio Soares.

The issue of East Timor people in Portugal was brought to the home minister's attention following a statement by Governor Abilio some time ago that there are about 8,000 East Timorese who had been repatriated to Portugal since the integration of East Timor in 1976. These people are now living in misery in Portugal, and it is because of this that Indonesian journalists fail to receive permission to enter Portugal—the poorest country in Europe.

According to Rudini, those who have been residing abroad but have violated Indonesian law, such as Ramos Horta (FRETILIN's [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] ring leader), are free to make their own choice of whether to return to Indonesia. It is up to them; if they realize that what they have been doing so far is something wrong and apologize to the government, and finally decide to be Indonesian citizens, they must still follow the legal process. "I do not know what kind of offenses they will be charged with, but they will have to undergo the process of law," he said.

He said there is a law that regulates matters on citizenship, and anyone wishing to be an Indonesian citizen is welcomed. However, different treatment will be accorded to those who wish to come to Indonesia with the intention of setting fires.

Salvador Ximenes, a member of the House of Representatives, who just returned home after attending the Human Rights Commission's conference in Geneva, disclosed that several European countries such as Canada and Denmark focused their attention on the human rights issue in East Timor during the conference. This conference specially dealt with East Timor issues and the fate of the East Timorese, which they feel is not yet settled. Portugal also raised the human rights issue because of Indonesia's integration of East Timor.

Present at the conference session were East Timor natives representing Indonesia. They were Francisco Xavier Lopes de Cruz (a member of the Supreme Advisory Council), Leonardo (a young diplomat), Folrentino Sarmento, and Rui Gomes. They explained in detail to participants of the conference that what the foreign governments want to see done in East Timor does not suit the reality of the East Timor people's daily life. The East Timor people have already decided to be an integral part of Indonesia and this is the East Timor people's sovereign right, which is highly respected by the Indonesian Government.

Responding to newsmen, Rudini said that if East Timor's Operational Execution Command (Kolakops) is dissolved, this will mean that the security situation in East Timor is already stable, and the development and administration machinery will move faster. Even if Kolakops is disbanded, it will have no effect on the East Timor provincial government because so far the command has only carried out security arrangements in East Timor, while provincial administrative duties have been carried out by civilian staff.

He said there used to be coordination of duties between the civilian staff and the military, and this was the normal situation wherever possible. But if Kolakops is dissolved, it will have no effect on the activities of the provincial civilian government in the province. So far Kolakops has carried out security arrangement activities,

and coincidentally the Kolakops' territorial operations were also contributing to the effort to develop the province.

Meanwhile, Brigadier General Theo Syafei, the commander of East Timor's Kolakops, told newsmen minutes before the appointment of the new deputy governor at the Local Legislative Council, that the command will be dissolved. However the date of its dissolution is not yet known. "I am not sure when Kolakops will be dissoved," he said briefly.

Addressing the ceremony marking the appointment of the new deputy governor of East Timor, the home affairs minister said the appointment of a deputy governor is not aimed at creating dual leadership in the province. The governor still has the final say when making decisions for the province. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Thai Prime Minister Arrives in Manila

HK2403104993 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 24 Mar 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has arrived this morning [as heard] for a three-day visit. On his first day, an agreement to improve tourism between Thailand and the Philippines was signed. Part of the visit will be Chuan Likphai's meeting with President Fidel V. Ramos.

The Thai leader is scheduled to speak tomorrow before members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Chuan Likphai arrived from his Singapore visit to pursue economic accords with the Philippines.

Doubts Cambodian Elections Mean Peace

HK2403124593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 24 March 93

[Text] Manila, March 24 (AFP)—Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai on Wednesday told Philippine President Fidel Ramos he was doubtful the forthcoming Cambodian elections would bring lasting peace to the war-ravaged nation, a Filipino spokesman said.

The Thai leader, who arrived from Singapore Wednesday for a three-day official visit, discussed a wide range of issues, including bilateral trade and investments and the Cambodian situation, with Ramos at the presidential palace.

"In general terms, he (Chuan) believes that the forthcoming elections are a kind of watershed event in the development of the peace process in Cambodia," Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino said during a news briefing.

"I must say that he wasn't very optimistic as to the results of this in terms of arriving at an enduring settlement, therefore he was calling for greater efforts to consolidate peace," Severino added. He said Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri also briefed Ramos and other Philippine officials Wednesday on the "various possibilities that could occur after the elections."

In Singapore on Tuesday Chuan was similarly pessimistic, saying Cambodia's Supreme National Council "has no real power" and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia "cannot control the country". The U.N.-sponsored vote, designed to bring peace to the country ravaged by decades of civil war, is scheduled by the end of May. But the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of four armed factions bidding for power, has said it will boycott the polls and has refused U.N. efforts to disarm its guerrillas, endangering the peace process. Severino said the worst-case scenarino would be "all out fighting" although he added this was not the most likely outcome.

Philippine Press Secretary Rodolfo Reyes told reporters Prasong "painted three possibilities as to the outcome of the elections" but declined to give details, saying these were "highly sensitive" matters. "We're just as concerned as they (Thais) are," Severino said when asked what Manila's reaction was. The Philippines was calling on the Khmer Rouge "to rejoin the political process of holding elections, the formation of a government and the writing of a constitution," he said.

Manila has sent troops to Cambodia as part of a U.N. contigent to preserve peace before the elections.

Ramos Asks Congress for 12 Emergency Measures

HK2403042693 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 24 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Marichu A. Villanueva]

[Text] President Ramos yesterday endorsed to Congress an urgent administration bill which seeks to allow the Chief Executive to exercise 12 "emergency measures" to address the power crisis.

As proposed, the emergency measures would remain in effect for two years to enable the government to quickly put up power plants to end daily blackouts.

Presidential special counsel Antonio Carpio assuaged fears the President, through the bill, is invoking special emergency powers allowed the President under the Constitution.

"These are ordinary legislative delegation of authority by Congress to the President," Carpio said. "This is a delegation of authority to exercise powers not under the emergency powers in the Constitution."

The "delegated legislative authority" bill seeks:

—A waiver or exemption for two years from the rules of public bidding, particularly Presidential Decrees 1594, procurement of supplies and equipment necessary for power and energy projects;

—To authorize the President to prescribe and implement a more expeditious processing of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for any power projects;

—To authorize the President to waive or exempt from the rules of bidding the disposition of idle government assets, the proceeds of which shall be used for energy and power projects;

—To authorize the President to waive and exempt energy projects from the project approval procedures of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), including the Regional Development Council endorsement and clearances from the Government Corporate Monitoring and Coordinating Committee;

—Suspension of Local Government Code provisions requiring approval from local government units of energy and power projects;

—To authorize the President to impose a surcharge on power rates to discourage conspicuous consumption by household consumers;

—To set aside ten percent of the annual earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) for the next five years to finance energy and power projects as may be determined by the President;

—A review and revision of the return on rate base for energy and power utilities including Napocor [National Power Corporation] in accordance with the requirements of national economy;

—Waiver or exemption of power projects from provisions of the Urban Development and Housing Act relating to land and rights-of-way acquisition;

—To authorize the President to prescribe implementing rules and regulations for expropriation of real property to be used exclusively as rights of way for power projects and upon payment of just compensation; and,

—To authorize the President to abolish or create offices, split groups or merge positions, transfer functions, appropriations, equipment, properties, records and personnel of Napocor.

Rules Out Imposing Martial Law

HK2403050093 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 24 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Marichu Villanueva]

[Text] President Ramos categorically ruled out imposing martial law in the country, saying he will only use the emergency measures under his "calamity powers" to ensure the completion of fast-tracked and regular base-load power projects of the government to end the crippling energy supply shortage.

The President swore he has no "hidden agenda" when he first broached the idea of invoking his special emergency powers under the country's 1987 Constitution during an open forum at the Kapihan sa Manila Hotel last March 8.

The President stressed these points in a televised interview with journalist Maximo Soliven last Monday night [22 March]. "As far as martial law is concerned, that's out because I know the sequence that comes out of a martial law situation," the President said.

"There is no intention on my part to impose again a repressive and authoritarian regime which is precisely what we rejected seven years ago," Mr Ramos stressed.

Mr Ramos recalled that as PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief during martial law regime of late President Marcos, he had witnessed that it could be "initially successful" but martial rule will not prosper because the Filipinos don't want it.

Mr Ramos reiterated that what the Palace is looking at is the possible exercise of the President of his special emergency powers under Article VI, Section 23, paragraph 2 of the country's Constitution.

This particular provision states that: "Congress, in times of war or other national emergency, may, by law, authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to restrictions as it may prescribe, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy."

In this case, the President clarified, the declared national policy is "to accelerate the development of power and energy" which he said is one of the five pillars of his administration's program of government.

Mr Ramos traced much of the country's prevailing acute power supply crisis to the mothballing in 1986 of the 620-megawatt Bataan nuclear power plant (BNPP) by the administration of ex-President Corazon Aquino.

He said "no alternative" power plants were put in to fill the slack left by the mothballing of the $2.3 billion BNPP, now the subject of litigation in New Jersey on the bribery case filed by the Philippine government against its contractor Westinghouse.

Mr Ramos cited three of the six fast-track power projects being put up by the state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor), the construction of which was started late last year—the 100-MW Hopewell plant in Navotas, the first 25-MW from Enron, Batangas and a portion of the Bataan diesel plant between March 31 and April 11. But the completion of these fast-track power projects, he warned, will not totally solve the problem of daily brownouts.

"But you cannot absolutely predict what will happen to our plants," he pointed out. "The unknown factor there is the reliability of the existing power plants, most of which are 20 to 30 years old already," Mr Ramos said.

MNLF Leader Denies Involvement in Mindinao Bombings

HK2403053693 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Nur Misuari, Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] chairman, has strongly denied allegations that his group is directly involved in the recent spate of bombings in Mindanao. Misuari, in an interview by DZMM in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, said the MNLF is against any form of terrorist activity because it violates their basic principles. However, Misuari does not discount the possibility that members of the MNLF lost command may be behind the bombings. He said it is possible that this group of Muslim rebels could no longer wait for the results of the peace process.

MNLF Threatens 'Holy War' During Mindanao Elections

HK2403033593 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 24 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] Cagayan De Oro City—Factions of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] have threatened to declare a holy war (jihad) against the government on Thursday when the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) holds its elections. Tension escalated in Mindanao as bomb threats were reported in key areas and another blast killed a couple.

In Manila, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa yesterday vowed "everything possible" to push through with the ARMM elections which he said cannot be stopped by the bombings. The secretary told reporters before the weekly Cabinet meeting: "We have had threats from a certain Commander Abu-Sayaf in Zamboanga that he will conduct terroristic activities."

Sayaf wrote Lt. Gen. Romeo Zulueta, head of the Southern Command in Zamboanga City, threatening escalation of violent and terroristic activities, De Villa said. Police have launched a manhunt against Abu-Sayaf, head of a Muslim fundamentalist group allegedly responsible for the violence in Zamboanga.

Philippine National Police chief Gen. Raul Imperial said regional police commanders were contemplating imposing curfew in certain areas where violence and terrorism would likely erupt not only because of the ARMM polls but intensified activities of Muslim secessionists. De Villa and Imperial said there was no need for more soldiers and police in the south. De Villa said the timing of the bombings showed they might be related to the elections but "material evidence" have yet to be gathered to establish the connection.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia said the bombings were meant to "redeploy our forces back to the urban centers," noting most of them had occurred outside the territory of the ARMM. Abadia said the military has a list of the suspects in the bombing and their possible motives.

Military spokesman Col. Rufo de Veyra, said the suspects might have wanted the Armed Forces to spread its forces thinly. "The bombings could be seen as some sort of design to divert attention from the elections or that they are some sort of message saying that the elections are not right. They just want to disrupt the holding of the elections," he said.

De Villa said the MNLF and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF] had been busily arming and recruiting members, particularly younger ones.

In Libertad, Misamis Oriental, a couple was killed yesterday morning when unidentified men lobbed an apple-type grenade a few meters away from the town plaza. Supt. [Superintendent] Carlito Tabaculde, police director for Misamis Oriental, said. Tabaculde dismissed speculation that the bombing was related to the ARMM elections. The suspects could be communists. The victims—Aguinaldo Ravanes, 58, and his wife Luzviminda, 55—died instantly. Their nipa [thatch] house was destroyed. They have no children.

In the ARMM, some 100 public school teachers will not man precincts because the Commission on Elections had denied their request for relief in the face of death threats, reelectionist ARMM Gov. [Governor] Zacaria Candao said yesterday. The Lupasok Revolutionary Command of the MNLF reportedly sent letters to government authorities warning them of a possible declaration of jihad.

Abdul Aziz Lomondot, secretary-general of the Bangsa Moro National Union, aid the Muslim Students League, the Council of Ulamas (religious leaders) and the MILF have agreed to boycott the elections. He said the Muslim revolutionary groups should be consistent and demand the full implementation of the Tripoli Agreement.

Ramos Condemns Mindanao Bombings

HK2403092193 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos today condemned the spate of bombings in Mindanao, especially during the campaign rally of Lakas-NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] candidates, during which six party members were killed and 26 others wounded.

Ramos, chairman of Lakas-NUCD, reiterated his support for the party's candidate for governor, Liningding Pangandaman. He stressed that he still believes Pangandaman will win the election.

The president also said the bombings by still unidentified persons are the work desperate people who do not want to have just, orderly, peaceful and credible elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

Thailand

Premier Calls for Unity in Governing Coalition

BK2403015193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] The Prime Minister yesterday called for patience from his ministers and told them not to allow criticism of the coalition to undermine the unity of the Cabinet.

Mr Chuan's call came in the wake of a potentially explosive exchange between Democrat and Phalang Tham members of the Cabinet over adverse comments about the coalition's performance.

Mr Chuan was addressing a group of about 100 Thai residents, together with about half of the members of the Cabinet, at the Thai Embassy in Singapore last night.

He said the Government was brought to power as a result of the May events. Under such circumstances, the coalition has tended to be heavily criticised by the media for its handling of national affairs. Without firm judgement and determination, this criticism might well have shaken the Government.

The present coalition comprises five political parties and it is normal for members to have different views when working together, he said.

The on-going problem is still confined to individual members of the Cabinet, and has not taken on a size that will affect the unity of the coalition, he said.

Mr Chuan told reporters earlier yesterday that he understood the nature of people. One individual is never the same as another.

He said: "Each individual is different physically and mentally. Individuals do not think in the same way. If we understand this, there will be no problem.

"It's like having friends. Some friends will die for us. But some will run away for fear of a ghost, or just because we have been heavily criticised by the Press," he said.

He has experience of several coalition governments and knows what can happen if one coalition member tries to take advantage of another or tries to save himself at the cost the others.

The country's problems are like the ocean that keeps washing ashore. We have to solve one problem after another all the time."

He called on Cabinet members to exercise patience and to continue their work, because "without achievements we will not be able to last."

The Government is a coalition and therefore has policies drawn from each member of that coalition.

If Cabinet ministers understand human nature they will be able to continue working together to strive for the goals set out in their joint policy.

Mr Chuan insisted that the Government's policy is clear, especially in the goal of decentralising power and ensuring a redistribution of income and wealth to the provinces.

He said: "We will step forward. We will listen to criticism. We must be confident in what we are doing today. The present Government has remained in existence because of its honesty. Let's have confidence that this Government will administer the country democratically."

Meanwhile, a Democrat MP, claiming to represent a group of young coalition legislators, has called on Government leaders to stop squabbling and join hands to work for democracy.

MP Suphat Thammaphet of Phatthalung said the bickering among key coalition members has become a cause of concern for his group, which has met to discuss the problem.

"If our leaders continue to try to outdo one another in their comments, no good will come of it." Mr Suphat said.

"All members of the coalition must share the bad as well as the good. No one can be better than another."

Differences expressed on several issues by coalition members have given the impression that the Govemment is in disarray, he said. This has caused concern among the public and has eroded confidence in the coalition, which does not help the cause of democracy. Coalition leaders must work together.

"The Government is being accused of not achieving anything. If everybody continues to go his own way and there is no cooperation, people will lose their faith in the Government," Mr Suphat said.

"The Government must not forget that it is in office by virtue of the people's support.

Minister Confident Russia To Honor Rice Agreement

BK2403012193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Mar 93 p 22

[Text] Thailand will be paid more than US$60 million it is owed by Moscow for rice even if Russia is in political turmoil, Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon said yesterday.

Mr Uthai said the contract between the two countries was at government level. If the Yeltsin Administration is

no longer in power, the new government of Russia will still have a commitment to pay Thailand.

Thailand should continue to trade with Russia to avoid losing access to the market, he said.

Deputy Commerce Minister Chaiyot Sasomsap said Thailand should give time for Russia to pay. He is confident the money will not be lost. But the next rice deal of 500,000 tons to Russia will be postponed.

According to the Foreign Trade Department, Thailand has not yet delivered a 40,000-ton consignment of rice to Russia.

India wants to buy 40,000 tons of Thai rice but the two countries cannot agree on the price.

Minister Discusses IPR Court Proposal, U.S. Talks

BK2403101793 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 24 Mar 93 p 29

[Text] Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon said he has received reports from Commerce Ministry Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena Na Ayutthaya on the progress of talks with the United States on intellectual property rights. He said the situation is still worrisome because the United States is not quite satisfied with Thailand's explanation. He will follow the issue and may travel to the United States for talks if necessary.

Uthai said the Commerce Ministry has submitted to the cabinet a proposal for the Justice Ministry to establish an intellectual property cases division, particularly to handle such problems prior to the establishment of an intellectual property court. He has assigned Phatchara to explain to the United States that Thailand is serious about solving this problem, such as in its establishment of an intellectual property case division to speed up their settlement. On 26 March, the Interior and Commerce Ministries will invite the five big companies which have acquired legal copyrights, 29 music tape and video cassette producers, and representatives from the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry for a meeting to discuss ways to curb copyright violations.

Briefs on Talks, Section 301 Threat

BK2403121193 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 24 Mar 93 p 7

[Excerpt] Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon has told reporters that the United States is threatening to use Section 301 against Thailand by claiming that Thailand does not provide adequate protection for U.S. intellectual property rights. He said he has sent a working committee led by the Commerce Ministry permanent secretary to the United States to explain Thailand's measures and to let the United States know about its sincere attitude towards the problem. He has also instructed the team not to adhere to old methods in the talks. In the past, the Thai side cited the legislative process as an excuse, and that the issuance or amendment of laws has to go through the Parliamentary process, which takes time. But, the United STates now knows that the Thai parliament can pass a law in three readings within one day. So, it no longer believes our old excuse to buy time.

In addition, he also instructed the Commerce Ministry permanent secretary to tell the United States about Thailand's sincerity in handling this issue by explaining what we are doing and what we will do to curb copyright or intellectual property violations. This issue has to be solved gradually because this government is not similar to the government set up by the National Peacekeeping Council, which could do anything at once. We are informing the United States about the establishment of an intellectual property rights court, which is now under cabinet consideration. [passage omitted]

Army Chief Promises 'Free' Military Bank

BK2303040793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Mar 93 p 28

[Text] The Thai Military Bank is gearing up to be a public bank with professional management, and will be free of military interference, according to Army Commander-in-Chief Wimon Wongwanit.

Gen Wimon, who is the bank's chairman, said that although the military is the bank's main shareholder, the Armed Forces will allow it to be run by a professional management team freely.

He said the management's performance in running the bank is good. Satisfied with its performance and dividend payments, the Army will maintain its shareholding portion in the bank.

Speaking while presiding over an opening ceremony of the bank's Ho Chi Minh City branch, Gen Wimon said he is pleased with the bank's plan to expand its banking network to Indochina.

The bank will play a part in helping support economic development and cooperation among the countries of the region.

Gen Wimon said the Thai Military Bank will not change its name.

"What's wrong with the bank's name?" he said. "The Thai military is not a bad profession. I don't see any harm in keeping the name."

He said foreign countries do not pay attention to what the bank is called.

"They do business with the bank rather than worrying about its name. Much more important is the bank's quality and stability."

The bank's president, Thanong Bidaya, said the bank will open more branches in Indochina to establish a network in competition with foreign banks, particularly

the out-out transactions under the Bangkok International Banking Facilities scheme.

The bank opened a branch in Ho Chi Minh City last Friday and will open a branch in Vientiane by the end of this month. The bank has already opened a representative office in Burma and has obtained a licence to open a branch in Koh Kong, Cambodia.

Dr Thanong said the bank will use its Hong Kong branch to mobilise funds from overseas to lend in the domestic market and in Indochina.

However, the bank will concentrate on lending to Thai businessmen investing in Indochina, because it carries a lower risk and the bank is able to obtain good collateral.

Next month the bank's Hong Kong branch will issue $65m worth of floating rate certificated deposit notes in Singapore, with seven Hong Kong and Singapore international banks as underwriters.

Vietnam

22d Joint MIA Search Ends 23 Mar

BK2303143993 Hanoi VNA in English 1420 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 23—From February 22 to March 23, Vietnam and the United States conducted the 22nd joint search for Americans missing in action [MIA] in Vietnam. Experts of the two countries conducted investigations and excavations in many places in Thua Thien-Hue, Darlak, Gia Lai, Phu Yen, Song Be, Dong Thap, Tra Vinh, Tien Giang and Vinh Long Provinces located in central Vietnam, the central highlands and south Vietnam. At the same time, efforts to collect information relating to MIA's continued at the Army Museum in Hanoi, Danang and Ho Chi Minh City. Some reports on live sightings were also checked and dismissed as hoaxes through investigations in Ha Tinh, Thanh Hoa, Haiphong, Yen Bai, Hanoi and Ha Tay, particularly, experts of the two countries actively and carefully investigated the reports on the existence of remains of MIA's in some localities. The information, personnel [as received] effects and remains collected in this joint search threw the light on the fate of many Americans reported missing in Vietnam. No evidence of living Americans left by the war in Vietnam has been found. The remains collected by excavation teams or handed by the local people will be screened by forensic experts of the both countries. The US side highly appreciated the close and effective cooperation of the local administrations and people in this joint search.

Vo Van Kiet, Businessmen Leave for Japan 24 Mar

BK2403105893 Hanoi Voice oj Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet left Hanoi on Wednesday for an official visit to Japan. The visit is made at the invitation of the Japanese Government.

The Prime Minister is accompanied by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam; Minister Do Quoc Sam, chairman of the State Planning Committee; and other ministers, deputy ministers, and senior officials.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Japan Nguyen Tam Chien and Vietnamese state and private businessmen are also in the delegation.

VNA Reports Arrival in Tokyo

BK2403143393 Hanoi VNA in English 1419 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his entourage today arrived at Haneda Airport (Tokyo) at 14:00 hours (local time), beginning his official visit to Japan, reports a special correspondent of VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY in Tokyo.

This is the first official visit of the Vietnamese prime minister in 20 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in september 1973, and four months after the Japanese Government's resumption of its official development aid to Vietnam.

The Vietnamese delegation was welcomed at the airport by Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Kakizawa Koji, Ambassador to Vietnam Hiroyuki Yushita and other Japanese officials.

Right after his arrival in Tokyo Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited the Japanese Telephone and Telegraph Centre NTT and a number of streets.

NHAN DAN Welcomes Premier's Japan Visit

BK2403092793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Under the title: "The prospects for cooperation and friendship between Vietnam and Japan," today's NHAN DAN editorial points out: Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet leaves Hanoi today for an official visit to Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Government. This is the first official visit to Japan by a prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This is an important event in the history of cooperation and friendship between the two governments and peoples.

Vietnam and Japan are two Asian countries that are close geographically and share many cultural similarities. At present, they have the same interests and aspirations, namely broadening relations in the various

domains to meet each country's economic and cultural development needs and contribute to peace, stability, and development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Of late, leaders of the two countries have stressed the need for and the possibility of promoting bilateral cooperation on the principle of equality and mutual interest. Based on this spirit, Vietnamese-Japanese relations have made positive progress as demonstrated by the exchanges of visits by the foreign ministers and other high-ranking officials. These activities reflect the two nations' desires to promote bilateral relations in many domains.

Economically strong, Japan has modern technology and great potential in terms of capital and technological knowhow. Japanese politicians and businessmen have highly valued the efforts and the initial progress that Vietnam has made in the framework of its reform program. They have expressed a willingness to cooperate with and assist Vietnam in its economic development. Bilateral relations have been broadened in many fields. Japan is a major trade partner of Vietnam. Japanese businessmen are increasingly interested in investing in Vietnam and have worked out practical investment projects. Last November, the Japanese Government resumed its official development aid for Vietnam (ODA) worth 45.5 billion Yen, or $380 million, for fiscal year 1992 after 14 years of suspension. This move is significant because it promotes financial and monetary relations between the two countries and encourages Japanese businesspeople to boldly invest in Vietnam, especially in infrastructure building and development. Considerable progress has also been made in cultural and scientific-technological cooperation.

This multifaceted relations show great potential and prospects. We are convinced that this official visit to Japan by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will open up a new stage in the history of cooperation and friendship between the Vietnamese and Japanese states and peoples.

Spokesman Urges Protecting Nationals in Cambodia

BK2403120993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has called on the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), and the State of Cambodia to take urgent and effective measures to protect Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia.

The spokesman was replying to foreign correspondents' questions on the fact that many Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia have to go to Phnom Penh to seek refuge because of the threat of being killed by the Khmer Rouge.

The spokesman voiced his concern about the brutal terrorist acts committed by the Khmer Rouge against Vietnamese residents.

Meanwhile, the urgent session of Vietnamese peasants and the Vietnamese Red Cross voiced their strong protest against the Khmer Rouge actions.

Also, in Austria, the Communist Party Secretary (Walter Bairo) said his party strongly protests the Khmer Rouge massacre.

Trade Accord To Be Signed With Cuba 22 March

BK2103132893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] A (?long) working meeting aimed at strengthening economic cooperation between Cuba and Vietnam is under way in Havana. A trade accord is expected to be signed on 22 March. The Vietnamese agriculture minister said Vietnam would help Cuba develop its agriculture.

Vietnam will donate 10,000 tonnes of rice to Cuba and will contract another 100,000 tonnes to be delivered between 1993-95 period.

Cuban President Receives Economic Delegation

BK2303144993 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 23 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 23—Cuban president of the State Council Fidel Castro has received in Havana Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food industry and head of the Vietnamese Government's economic delegation to the 13th meeting of the intergovernment economic, scientific and technological cooperation committee. President Fidel Castro, who is also first secretary of the party Central Committee and president of the Council of Ministers, welcomed the results of the committee's meeting, which bears witness to the fine development of the bilateral cooperation in economy, science and technology. President Fidel congratulated Vietnam on its achievements in economic development and construction. Cuba, he said, pays special attention to Vietnam's experiences, especially in agriculture. The Cuban leader also expressed his deep appreciation of the solidarity expressed by the Vietnamese people with the Cuban people through the offer of 10,000 tonnes of rice.

President Fidel Castro reaffirmed the Cuban people's determination to overcome all difficulties and challenges and persevere in the task of socialist construction.

President Issues Order To Promulgate Regulations

BK2303035693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] This morning, the President Office is holding a press conference to announce the order of President Le

Duc Anh on the promulgation of the Regulation on Typhoon and Flood Prevention and Control and the Regulation on the Execution of Imprisonment Sentences. These two regulations were recently passed by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Nguyen Viet Dung, director of the President Office; Nguyen Canh Dinh, minister of water conservance; and Pham Tam Long, deputy minister of interior jointly chaired the conference. Attending the conference were Comrades Nguyen Van Yeu and Phan Thu from the National Assembly Jurisdiction Committee and National Assembly Science, Technology, and Environment Committee.

You are invited to follow the contents of these two regulations in the 23-24 March newspapers.

Australia

Keating Announces New Cabinet 24 March

BK2403025293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0237 GMT 24 Mar 93

[Text] Canberra, March 24 (AFP)—Eleven new ministers including four who will go straight into cabinet are part of the new ministry announced here Wednesday by Prime Minister Paul Keating following Labor's win in the March 13 election.

One newcomer, 31-year-old Michael Lavarch, who after Keating himself will be the youngest ever Labor minister, has also been given one of the most important posts, attorney-general.

Yet he is still to win his seat, the Queensland electorate of Dickson, in which a by-election is being held next month after a rival candidates died in the pre-election period.

As Australia's chief lawyer, Lavarch will be the minister responsible for steering Australia towards becoming a republic, which is one of Keating's most passionate objectives.

The 30-person ministry is one of the youngest ever, with an average age of 46 compared to 49 for the ministry with which Keating entered the election campaign.

Among other changes in the biggest ministerial shakeup since Labor came to power in 1983, Senator Graham Richardson, is being returned to a senior cabinet portfolio, health, after resigning from the ministry last year.

Richardson was "sinbinned" following disclosures he had written a reference on ministerial paper for a relative who later faced charges over a business migration racket in the Marshall Islands.

Deputy Prime Minister Brian Howe lost the health portfolio but retains housing and community services with local government added to his responsibilities.

Senator Gareth Evans, who retains the Foreign Ministry, has been elevated to the powerful position of government leader in the Senate following the retirement of John Button.

As an indication that Keating wants experience and maturity to steer the economy back to full recovery John Dawkins remains treasurer and Ralph Willis remains finance minister.

Kim Beazley is one of the few other ministers unaffected by the shakeup with his education, employment and training portfolio intact.

Rosemary Crowley, a physician, has been appointed minister for family services, an important new role reflecting increased government emphasis on women's issues.

Crowley will also have the title of minister assisting the prime minister on the status of women.

The full ministry (with the first 19 in cabinet) is:

Prime Minister, Paul Keating; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Services, Brian Howe; Treasurer, John Dawkins; Finance, Ralph Willis; Employment, Education and Training, Kim Beazley; Health, Graham Richardson; Foreign Affairs, Gareth Evans; Trade, Peter Cook; Defence,Robert Ray; Environment, Sport and Territories, Ros Kelly; Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Nick Bolkus; Primary Industries and Energy, Simon Crean; Tourism and Resources, Michael Lee; Industry, Technology and Regional Development, Alan Griffiths; Transport and Communications, Bob Collins; Social Security, Peter Baldwin; Arts and Administrative Services, Bob McMullan; Industrial Relations, Laurie Brereton; Attorney-General, Duncan Kerr, acting pending Michael Lavarch's appointment; Consumer Affairs, Jeannette McHugh; Special Minister of State (within the Prime Minister's portfolio), Frank Walker; Aboriginal Affairs, Robert Tickner; Family Services and Minister, Assisting the Prime Minister on the Status of Women, Rosemary Crowley; Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs, Gordon Bilney; Defence Science and Personnel and Minister for Veterans Affairs, John Faulkner; Assistant Treasurer, George Gear; Schools, Vocational Education and Training, Ross Free; Science and Small Business and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Science, Chris Schacht; Communications, David Beddall; Justice, Duncan Kerr.

Papua New Guinea

Economy 'Bounds Ahead' With 9-Percent Growth Rate

BK2403110593 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 24 Mar 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Like Australia, Papua New Guinea [PNG] is looking North in an attempt to hook in to the economic success stories of Asia but unlike Australia, PNG has an economy which is already bounding thanks to gold, oil, and tropical forest logs. Sean Dorney reports that national statistics just released by the Bank of PNG show that the country's real gross domestic product, its GDP, increased by 9 percent on 1992.

[Begin Dorney recording] An economy growth rate of 9 percent must be the envy of most countries in the world. But, PNG's reserve bank, the Bank of PNG, cautions that the real GDP rise of exactly 9 percent is due to expansion in a limited number of industries. It says the increase was driven by the mining sector with the (Pagol) and (Misana) gold mines both increasing production and by the impact of the (Kutabu) oil project coming on the

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